



Edited by  
DAN KOIS and LANE BROWN

# VULTURE

E-MAIL US



1/22/08

Art Candy

5:00 pm

## Artist Elena Willis's Cloudy Classroom



Elena Willis's *Aberfan 1966* (2007).  
Image courtesy of the artist and Eli Klein Fine Art, New York.

Inspired by a 1966 tragedy in which coal waste trickled down a mountain in a Welsh mining town, engulfing a nearby school and killing 144, Elena Willis's *Aberfan 1966* seems an exercise in surrealist photographic technique. Not one to lean on Photoshop's user-friendly effects, Willis combines the results of two separate studio sessions here — one with the boy, and another with the super-erie black smoke. Her work currently is up as part of a group exhibition of contemporary Canadian art at Soho's Eli Klein Fine Art. —Rachel Wolff