

HP GARCIA GALLERY

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CURRENTS: Contemporary Photographs by Former Heliographers

DATES: 9 May – 30 June, 2007

Martin Bernstein, Carl Chiarenza, Larry Clark, Adger Cowans, David Heath, Scott Hyde, Jerry Uelsmann.

The HP Garcia Gallery is pleased to announce the presentation of CURRENTS: Contemporary Photographs by Former Heliographers. The exhibition opens on May 9, with a reception for the artists from 6-8pm.

CURRENTS offers an unprecedented event which assembles a group of seminal photographers who were among the members of one of the most highly regarded, but seldom publicized of 20th century circles in modern photography – The Association of Heliographers. This circle of image makers was influenced by three primary factors: the magisterial lucidity found in the work of Minor White, the writings of Gurdjieff and Emersonian Transcendentalism. The Heliographers formally consolidated their group in 1963 in Manhattan and disbanded two years later. Named after the sun-imagery process invented by Joseph Nicéphore Niepce in 1829, the aims of the Heliographers were to explore the undercurrents of perception and universal forms and symbols all the while photographing familiar forms and commonplace subject matter, at times under extreme magnification. The goal of the Association of Heliographers was to promote and explore the use of direct photography to emphasize abstract aspects of decidedly non-abstract subjects. This approach to photography deliberately challenged viewers with literal subject matter that often appeared to resist interpretation or even recognition entirely.

CURRENTS presents the remarkably intense black and white studies of urban surfaces, enlarged, by Martin Bernstein as well as the investigations of light and dark of folded planes of paper and cut cardboard and other incidental “stuff” of Carl Chiarenza to reveal a metaphysical aura that appears to glow from within. Larry Clark’s snapshots of adolescents continues his fascination with the freshness of youth and the first stirrings of sexual attachments. Adger Cowans has for years turned his camera to the reflected swirls, curls, and furious eddies of water formations. These imagistic patterns that we see are Pollockian in their sense of urgency and primal vitality. Cowans' sensual pattern-images sustain a Dionysian frenzy that prioritizes visual awareness of moment-to-moment sensations. David Heath’s street scenes are hallucinatory in their impact. His startling images of juxtaposed incidents and arrested actions suggest hidden narratives that lie just below the surface of each image. Scott Hyde’s images emphasize nature as mystery, while Jerry Uelsmann creates mytho-poetic and surrealist-inspired vignettes which contain stunning juxtapositions and scale shifts.

The HP Garcia Gallery is located at 580 Eighth Avenue, on the 7th floor, between 38th and 39th Street, in Manhattan. Gallery hours are from 11-6 pm, Tuesday through Saturday and by appointment. For images please call the gallery at 212.354.7333 or email us at info@hpgarciagallery.com.

