

Simmons & Burke: You Can Live Forever in Paradise on Earth

Kim Light/Lightbox, 2656 S. La Cienega Boulevard, Los Angeles

Los Angeles-based duo Case Simmons and Andrew Burke's staggering solo exhibition comprised four large digital prints, each accompanied by a soundtrack audible through a set of headphones. There is a clear compositional relationship among these images, and indeed they were originally intended as one massive collage-- impossible to realize, finally, given the computing power required just to process a single 25-foot print in such high detail.

These four spectacles of reference and detail are almost religiously passionate in their consideration of modern life's input overload, but they have been assembled with meticulous patience. Images, mostly snapshots of people and objects gleaned from the internet and reproduced out of context, are arranged across a backdrop of color, landscape, and architectural elements. Cables, chains, and other lines radiate from focal centers, leading the eye toward other clusters of activity. The overlapping groups of cut-and-pasted elements are not unrecognizable in their detail- celebrity photos, famous works of art, personal pictures, historical images, animals, automobiles, icons, and anonymous surfaces abound-- but it is ultimately impossible to zoom out and take in the entire picture.

The audio elements are ingenious additions. Instead of looped recordings, these pieces feature software programmed by Burke to draw from a palette of categorized audio bytes. Their sequence is chosen randomly by the computer and won't repeat itself in our lifetimes.

The internet has been a palette and sourcebook for artists since its inception. This is no longer a recent development, but the persistent problem (as always for the artist faced with blank space) is what to do with all that material. Simmons & Burke's answer is refreshing because it is comfortable within the limits of medium and tradition but is nevertheless relentless, exuberant, and innovative in execution. Technology hasn't changed what art is, but Simmons & Burke provide a wonderful example of what it can do.

-Paul Rand



KIM LIGHT

2656 S. LA CIENEGA BLVD
 LOS ANGELES, CA 90034

T 310.559.1111 F 310.559.2911

info@kimlightgallery.com

www.kimlightgallery.com

LIGHTBOX