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CRITIC'S PICKS: Los Angeles

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By Shana Nys Dambrot



Although shadowed by the onset of Pacific Standard Time this fall, contemporary artists in Los Angeles have not sat meekly on the sidelines to observe the historical parade. Contributing Editor Shana Nys Dambrot picks out six So Cal artists whose shows are worth detours this fall.

George Legrady



Slice, 2011, Edition 1/3, Dynamically generated animations

Part photograph, part “experimental situation,” the work of this acclaimed Santa Barbara-based multimedia artist is about to double back on itself, retracing its own steps to move forward. On the one hand, Legrady embraces variations of cutting-edge and non-traditional imaging technologies from digital processes to lenticular printing- the better to infuse static images with both physical and narrative kinetic potential. Lenticular printing is familiar to most as a sort of proto-holograph in which several images might appear on the printed surface, depending on which angle it is viewed from. Legrady uses it to give life to his layered photo-montages, created by interlacing several of his own earlier photographs into a multidimensional whole that, in turn, gives rise to a far greater number of possible compositions. This engaging technique is formally captivating, but with Legrady, its serious importance lies in what this near-unpredictability means for the critical analysis of photography in general. The capriciousness of perception in his work is the physical counterpart to the presence of hidden meanings in its content, and an indictment of photography’s tendency to be seen as the impartial witness to reality, when in fact it is the result of a million unknown choices and the obliteration of what it does not show. *Refraction* opens November 5 at Edward Cella Art+ Architecture on the Miracle Mile, and continues through December 31.