

((echo)) long beach

This is a launch event for Echo Long Beach, a new 501(c)(3) non-profit.

Sacred Discontent: A Traveler's Guide to the Apocalyptic

Presented by Echo Long Beach and curated by Jonathan Anderson, MFA

Show will remain on display March 12th through April 2nd, 2005

Platform West Gallery, 441 E First St., Long Beach, CA

Gallery# 562.432.4044

Echo# 888.316.9947

www.EchoLongBeach.org

Info@EchoLB.org

Opening Reception:

Saturday, March 12th, 2005, 6pm-9pm

Special Recognitions at 8pm

Panel Discussion with Artists:

Saturday, March 19th, 2005, 5pm-7pm

With special musical guest TBA

Participating Artists:

Jonathan Anderson

Daniel Callis

Ryan Callis

Jenine Sherios Haard

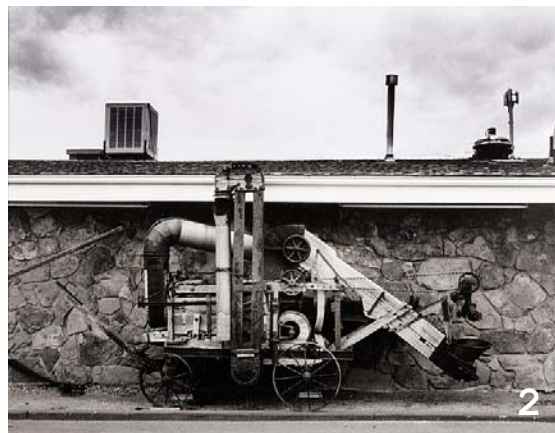
Ira Lippke

Matt Maust

Jeff Rau

Kurt Simonson

Matt Wignall



Sample Images:

1.
Wonderue
Ryan Callis
Mixed Media on Canvas

2.
Indiana (USA Series)
Matt Wignall
Silver Gelatin Print

3.
Three Palms
Daniel Callis
Oil on Canvas

4.
Most Holy Redeemer
(San Francisco, 2004)
Kurt Simonson
Ultrachrome print



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Curator's Statement:

Sacred Discontent:

A Traveler's Guide to the Apocalyptic

"In its refusal to [reject] the strange and the unknown, the apocalyptic mind will look hard, humbly, and often happily at what it doesn't understand." -David Dark, *Everyday Apocalypse*

Any discussion about contemporary academic thought will predictably be marked out by a long-winded series of "post-" prefixes (How does it feel to be told that you live in a post-historical, post-national, post-rational, post-literal, post-scientific, post-therapeutic, post-Christian, post-human, post-racial, post-sexual, post-modernist, post-postmodernist culture?). In an age that is clearly delineated by a pervasive sense of uncertainty, doubt, and disillusionment, it seems we feel most comfortable in defining ourselves by what we no longer are; we like to think of ourselves as now quite thoroughly "post" all that we once were.

Despite all of the possibilities that such developments open up, one can't help but feel a considerable sense of loss with regards to this postmodern "turn." Pop culture - as traversed in music, movies, television, politics, even fashion - unmistakably reveals a culture that is grappling with a pervasive sense of longing for something that we can't seem to remember. Perhaps postmodernity has left us feeling as though the ground has been pulled out from beneath our feet, but perhaps this is the result of having been honest about the degree to which this ground has already eroded, despite (or perhaps in light of) our attempts to give a full explanation of things.

This exhibition presents a group of nine local artists, each echoing this sense of failure and loss, not as a nihilistic end in itself, but as a site for coming to terms with what we don't understand. The practical failure of our most comprehensive ideologies reveals the aspects of existence that we cannot account for: the undecidable, the unmanageable, the apocalyptic (not in terms of destruction or fortune-telling, but in the true sense of the word: that which reveals and overturns our expectations). In the wake of malfunction and disappointment, we cannot help but find our world re-enchanted. The recognition of our own inability to satisfactorily present either explanations or solutions must force us to acknowledge an existence that is denser, more complex, and more unpredictable than what we ever presume it to be: our world is once again rendered full of uncontrollable, sacred space.

Jonathan Anderson, MFA
Curator

