

Felix Variations: Artists Respond to Felix Gonzales-Torres
April 23rd - May 15th, 2004
Opening Reception: Friday, April 23rd 6 to 9pm
@ PLAYSPACE CCA Graduate Gallery, San Francisco

Group Exhibition including: Shana Agid, Becca Albee, Tammy Rae Carland, Harrell Fletcher, Lori Gordon, Colter Jacobsen, Anna Maltz, Mitzi Pederson, Joseph del Pesco, Michele Pred, Jon Rubin, and Elin Slavick

Felix Variations is curated by Meredith Talusan, with Meredith Goldsmith and Tanya Zimbaro. PLAYSPACE is located on the second floor of CCA's San Francisco campus and is open Tuesday through Saturday, 12 -5 PM. For further information about this show or about PLAYSPACE please email gradgallery@cca.edu.

Description: Felix Variations will feature 12 artists whose work responds directly to the legacy of Felix Gonzales-Torres, the Cuban-born conceptual artist whose work encompassed a variety of media, and who consistently defied established artistic conventions of presentation and distribution to produce emotional impact. The show will feature established artists from both within and outside the San Francisco area, as well as graduate students from CCA.

Responses range in mood and medium. For instance, Jacobsen's untitled (we were here for this) (pictured), is a poetic intervention on an existing Gonzales-Torres photocopy piece using marker and graphite, while Pederson's untitled installation uses the most sparing of materials such as ribbon and string to produce transcendental effects. Fletcher's video, Hello There Friend (Queens, NY) 2004, shows the hand of his friend Raymond Denson opening again and again to reveal objects found on the street that acquire the status of art objects when isolated.

Gonzales-Torres' preoccupation with trace and time is an influence in Carland's photobacks, (pictured), which consist of clinical portraits of personal photographs from the 1910's to the 1970's, as well as Slavick's Yearbooks (for Felix), which consist of yearly photo albums of juxtaposed newspaper images.

More political pieces include Pred's Untitled Stack, which consists of a large pile of cell phone chargers that comment on the excesses of consumer culture, and Agid's No Superman, which consists of wallet-sized pictures of the artist's chest and the caption "No Superman," that comment on a transgendered body's relationship to images of masculinity.

Humorous responses include Albee's Long Program, a video that features a Zamboni machine cleaning an ice skating rink to the sounds of a figure skater performing a routine, and Maltz's Untitled (Marc), a piece consisting of a small pile of gummy bears corresponding to the weight of what was once her best friend's penis, before she had a sex change operation.

Ephemeral pieces include Rubin's Untitled, a piece in which the artist will mike his classical pianist neighbor's piano, and will broadcast him practicing through the Internet. Gordon's Let's Talk consists of the simple act of the artist being present in the gallery for at least an hour each day throughout the duration of the show to talk to people about their concerns. del Pesco's pieces will be invisible unless discovered, hidden beneath other artists' pieces.