

Quality Pictures^{CA}

CONTEMPORARY ART

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NWx4: New Northwest Photography

Liz Haley, Andrew O'Brien, Alexis Pike, and Mark Searcy

01.08.09 - 03.03.09

First Thursday Opening Jan 8, 6-9 pm

Quality Pictures is proud to present *NW x 4: New Northwest Photography*, an exhibition of diverse and bold visions from four Oregon artists. Making their Quality Pictures debuts, Liz Haley, Andrew O'Brien, Alexis Pike, and Mark Searcy each present fresh and exciting new takes on the art of fine photography.

In 2007, Portland artist **Liz Haley** wowed audiences at the Time-Based Art Festival with her daringly honest performance, "Polygraph." For *NWx4*, Haley reveals her recent work in found imagery and montage, with a new multi-panel installation about pack mentality, as well as several recent collages that find individuals pitted against larger forces, both natural and cultural. Haley's work has been widely exhibited, including at Hallwalls Gallery in Buffalo, the Miami Museum of Contemporary Art, and the Center on Contemporary Art, Seattle.

Andrew O'Brien began to toy with the conceptual and aesthetic limits of photography while living in Tucson, Arizona. Since moving to Eugene in 2007, his experiments in semi-abstracti.on have led him to themes including astronomy, celebrity sightings, the limits of optical perception, office supplies, and a state of mind O'Brien terms "cosmic boredom." *NWx4* features work from three recent series: "Star Maps," "Highlights," and "Thresholds."

In recent years, **Alexis Pike** has turned a lovingly skeptical eye to the landscape of rural Idaho, where the artist grew up. Photographing hand-painted murals that decorate the weathered exteriors of small-town barber shops, taverns, and feed stores, Pike juxtaposes idealized, Romantic views of the West with their far less-sublime reality. By conflating painted scenes with actual landscapes, Pike creates a complex and disorienting play of scale, representation, and realism. Pike lives and works in Portland, and is preparing for a solo exhibition at Blue Sky Gallery later this year.

Eschewing Photoshop and other forms of digital manipulation, **Mark Searcy** breaks and then reconfigures 35mm point & shoot cameras to function in unintended ways. Calling them his "MacGyver cameras," Searcy disables the film advance mechanism, which allows him to create multiple-exposure panoramas in camera, with negatives stretching up to several inches long. Unable to see his results until the film is developed, Searcy relies on practice and chance in creating these elongated, composite views of sun-beaten desolation. Before moving to Portland, Searcy was the co-founder of *Art Prostitute*, a celebrated art gallery and publication in Texas.

For more information, please contact the gallery at 503-227-5060 or visit us on the web at www.qpca.com. Quality Pictures is open Tuesday – Saturday 11am – 6pm.