GROUP EXHIBITION OF CONTEMPORARY PHOTOGRAPHY OPENS AT THE LIST VISUAL ARTS CENTER

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The List Visual Arts Center presents Cannibal Eyes, a group exhibition including the work of five artists who incorporate preexisting photographs into their own figurative-based photographic work. Cannibal Eyes will be on view from February 29 through April 18. A special public preview with the artists will be held on February 28, from 5-7 pm. By introducing photographs retrieved from the past into their work, these artists subvert, challenge and recontextualize familiar, often loaded images and cultural icons. Exhibition curator Ron Platt states, “The cannibal eyes of the title belong both to these artists and to their cameras. By ingesting and incorporating photographic “prey” into their own photographic work, the artists nourish their new compositions with these preexisting images.”

Pieced together from shards of x-rays or photographs of environmental debris, Tina Potter’s photographs examine the complex and contradictory interrelationships of organic and technological systems. Aura Rosenberg cuts images of nude women and men from magazines, decoupages them onto rocks, then photographs them in natural settings. Her photographs speak of the fetishized body, and of vulnerability in an exposed environment. John Schlesinger’s lush black and white photographs are constructed from a vocabulary of evocative gestures and expressions, often taken from films, intermingled and overlapped with more ambiguous imagery. The photographs hover at the edge of conscious narrative, yet remain elusive to interpretation. Potter, Rosenberg and Schlesinger all live and work in New York. Worcester-based John O’Reilly’s War Series combine provocative nude magazine imagery, personal snapshots, documentary war photographs and images from art history in intimate collages which memorialize young men killed in World War II. German artist Joachim Schmid splices together humorous yet chilling composite human portraits from found photographs and negatives which animate his fascination with the darker possibilities of genetic manipulation and madness.

In conjunction with the exhibition, a roundtable discussion on future trends in contemporary photography with the artists and area critics will be held in the List Visual Arts Center’s Bartos Theatre on Thursday, March 26 at 7 pm. An exhibition catalogue is available at the gallery desk or by mail.

The List Visual Arts Center is located in the Wiesner Building, 20 Ames Street, Cambridge, five minutes walk from the Kendall Square Red Line T Station. Parking is available at the corner of Ames and Main Streets. All LVAC exhibitions and events are free and open to the public.