



For Immediate Release

The Quadratic Logogram of Almost Everything: The Democracy of the Contemporary Art Object

David Corbett, Alex Felton, Kristan Kennedy, Sterling Lawrence

Curated by Derek Franklin

February 4 – March 20, 2010

Opening Reception February 4th, 6pm-9pm

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Portland, OR - Half/Dozen is pleased to present an exhibition looking into contemporary abstract works through a lens that gazes away from power, high status, and the sacred, which has demanded monumental and sublime expressions that elicit submission. It focuses instead on what Edmond Burke taught us long ago: overwhelming sublime spaces are best left obscure, and the intentionality of mere objects has no place in the transcendental as a call for exodus into a more democratic realm for artistic production. These artists find cultural contexts and language to animate objects into something more than items for financial speculation or mere amusement, embracing an ethos to not allow signs and images to vanish into an abyss of indifference or commercial oblivion. Here artists have acknowledged the criticisms in the history of abstract art associated with spectacle and empirical structures, and used them as a foundation to work away from on a conceptual level.

The work borrows the aesthetics of past movements and co-opts it into iconic symbols of the everyday. They have not only defined borders within third-generation appropriation but have also reclaimed an aesthetic and transformed it into a discourse conducted and interpreted in everyday terms on content including the Internet, car culture, construction, burgers and refuse. Returning abstraction to iconic metaphorical meanings built using language rather than bewitching viewers with promises of the transportation of form into content, allegorizing power into little more than reduced subjectivity.

Visual literacy is increasing with the advancement of technology, and visual saturation. Seeing objects as constant under myriad conditions, and recognizing the identity of these things is something people do without noticing. This group understands that and attempts to make art that does not undermine its subject. Using aesthetics and visual signifiers to make connections that locate the oddness in the ordinary where the remarkable and the casual often coincide. Allowing the ordinary to triumph over art again, but with meaning rather than the skepticism of the past.

Half/Dozen is located in the Everett Station Galleries at 625 NW Everett St, #111, Portland, OR 97209.

Half/DOZEN

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