

STEPHEN WIRTZ GALLERY

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HEIDI ZUMBRUN

Photographs & Video

Exhibition dates: January 26 – February 26, 2005

Opening reception for the artist Thursday, February 3, 2005, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Stephen Wirtz Gallery announces an exhibition of a new series of photographs and video works by Heidi Zumbrun that explore the form, presence, and potential meanings of mysterious, large-scale, sculptural objects discovered by the artist.

The images in the exhibition emphasize the lack of a fixed explanation for these perplexing white sculptural forms. They seem animal-like, with a profoundly visceral appearance and bizarre, skin-like texture that shines with an otherworldly glow in the outdoor light. Like an encampment of cloned pods, they seem alive and inhabit the landscape with an uncertain permanence while suggesting their own hidden, interior environment. Zumbrun creates an imagined narrative by documenting these objects in landscape in a way that is suggestive of a phenomenal event. The viewer may question whether these objects are commonplace and merely unrecognizable in the context of the presentation, or follow Zumbrun's suggestion by allowing their imagination to develop alternative possibilities. Zumbrun's act of appropriating these objects while resisting the definition of their intended purpose creates a situation of suspended interpretation and invites one to muse on the aesthetic value of an object in the artist's self-created world.

Photographs and Video follows from Zumbrun's acclaimed *Post-Op* and *Anatomy* series of large-scale images of parts of disfigured stuffed animals and toys that function as surrogate vehicles for the comprehension of psychological complexities of medical uncertainty. In this new series Zumbrun expands on her preoccupation with the issues of appropriating and re-contextualizing images of anthropological interest in her conceptual art practice.

Heidi Zumbrun lives and works in San Francisco and is an MFA graduate from the San Francisco Art Institute. Her work has been exhibited internationally and is included in the collections of San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, the Berkeley Art Museum, the Logan Collection, the Denver Art Museum and the Ulrich Museum of Art, Wichita, KS.

Stephen Wirtz Gallery is located at 49 Geary St., 3rd Fl., San Francisco, CA 94108, (415) 433-6879. Gallery hours are Tuesday-Friday, 9:30-5:30, Saturday 10:30-5:30.

For additional information please contact Julie Casemore, Tel.: (415) 433-6879, julie@wirtzgallery.com