

Frieze Frames Artist Statement

Frieze Frames

June 11 - 23, 2002

Gallery 888, Toronto

Painting With Light – photographs that are impressionistic in content, technique, or both.

It is my experience that many people maintain a very narrow view of what constitutes a proper photograph. For these individuals a photograph must be in perfect focus and properly oriented, be relatively grain or noise free, have realistic tones or colours – be a faithful representation of what was in front of them when they captured the image. On the other hand, what is accepted in painting, for example, ranges from photo realism to abstract expressionism. I believe that the authenticity of the final image should not be based on how loyal it is to reality but how well it conveys the artist's message. Painters, musicians, writers, or photographers all have the same goal, which is to express something.

The photographs in this show range from the architecturally inspired *Futurism*, a black and white pinhole camera study of a cheese grater, to *Atomic Hotel*, an impressionistic Polaroid sx-70 photograph with exaggerated, bleeding light and colour, to *Reflections on the Wall*, a colour photograph of a flower growing out of a graffitied section of the Berlin wall. When rotated 90 degrees the graffiti appears to be reflections on a stream. The impressionistic qualities are further enhanced in the choice of materials – prints are made on textured cold-pressed watercolour paper.

Bret Culp, June 2002