

White Columns

Looking Back / The 14th White Columns Annual – Selected by Randy Kennedy

Curator's statement:

“With apologies to Claes Oldenburg (“I Am For An Art”) and thanks to all the artists whose work I saw over the last year and was able to include in this show:

I am for an art that sneaks in through the side door, an art that's undercover, underhanded, underwater, an art that joins the underground resistance, an art that is understated and overbearing, overstated and undermining, aboveboard and double-dealing, an art that is spit-polish unfinished and junkyard clean. I am for an art that wears no hat in the winter, an art that won't show its cards, an art with something up its sleeve, an art that stands up for itself while falling down. An art that doesn't hold a job, carries a minor criminal record, picks up night shifts, argues with strangers, passes out at parties, disappears for days on end with no word, an art that bought a ticket for the circus but won't go in, an art that secretly won the lottery and gave it all away. I am for an art that keeps its distance from language and contradicts its own taste. An art that is “wrenched and sweaty ... calm and cool,” (Whitman), an art that provides “almost-clarity about not-quite confusion” (Richard Nonas), an art that has no time but just won't leave, an art that closes the joint down.”

Randy Kennedy

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