

The Kitchen Center for Video and Music

press release

Troy Brauntuch

An Exhibition

March 31 through April 21

Tuesday-Saturday, 1-6pm

The Kitchen Center's Gallery

484 Broome Street

The Kitchen Center's Gallery will present recent works by Troy Brauntuch, March 31-April 21. The exhibition of drawings and photographic transfer prints will be on display Tuesday through Saturday, 1-6pm.

Troy Brauntuch's work is best known to New Yorkers from "Pictures," a recent group exhibition curated by Douglas Crimp for Artists Space. The pieces in the current show are photographic transfer prints in which images appear divorced from their original context: two faces coexist side by side; two helmeted men drive through a landscape; lights point skyward. Images appear as objects on colored backgrounds within frames.

The subject matter of these works, however, is not the image, but the image of the image. The pictures may come from history books or popular magazines; in context, they often document dramatic historical situations. Brauntuch is not overtly concerned with the original circumstances. When images are liberated from context, our cultural associations are short-circuited and deactivated. Any search for meaning takes us deeper into the object itself.

Brauntuch notes that his selection and isolation of images implies a participation with the original photographer or artist. Likewise, the pieces in the exhibition command participation from viewers, who inevitably fabricate circumstances for the images. Because the images are in the public domain, it is possible that viewers may identify the contexts from prior knowledge, or may infer contexts from details of the images. Whether such an identification is correct or not is beside the point: a conspiracy has been created around the image and the viewers has been drawn in.

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Troy Brauntuch has lived in New York City since his graduation from the California Institute of the Arts in 1975. His works have been included in group exhibitions at Hallwalls in Buffalo, the Allen Memorial Art Museum in Oberlin, the University of Colorado at Boulder and the Los Angeles Institute of Contemporary Art. Articles appearing in the April issues of October (by Douglas Crimp) and Flash Art (by Vera Dika) include critiques of Brauntuch's work. Also in April, new works by Brauntuch will appear in a group show organized by Helena Kontova for Milan's Studio d'Arte Cannaviello.

484 Broome Street between West Broadway and Wooster, New York City