

The Wignette

Covering the Best of Kansas City

Nov. 20, 2010

i.'d.: i is, is i?

By Alexa Lang



How we perceive ourselves is not always how we are.

And certainly, how we are perceived by others can be twisted and perverted through the eyes of media into something we definitely aren't. Or are we?

Artists and art lovers alike gathered at Urban Culture Project Space (23 E. 12th St.) yesterday for the opening of i.'d.: i is, is i?

A multimedia exhibition exploring conceptions of the self, it features works by emerging Kansas City-based artists Luke Pretz, Abbe Findley and Terry Campbell.

The art was created through exploration of self with the aid of photography, video and sound. It seems to challenge the way we see ourselves, how we really look and how others see us.

From a camera that displays the image of anyone who stands near it in kaleidoscope fashion on the way to images of the artists seemingly being natural in their space, the exhibition attempts to drill for truth.

The Charlotte Street Foundation, which made the exhibition possible, describes it in this way: "Much of this blurring, and the consequent ambiguity relative to the notion of the 'true' or 'real' self, can be seen as product of contemporary media/technology, via

which one is constantly in the process of (re)constructing and projecting one's 'self,' as well as accessing and processing others' self-projections via shared images and actions. The exploration of these dynamics and how they relate to the forging of personal identity and lived reality are central to these artists' works."

The artists themselves tend to pry a little deeper.

Findley said she is interested in "the performance of everyday," how people entertain themselves in their daily practice. Her work explores and questions the potential of the individual, the realm of plasticity within, and ways in which our inner architect can excite and feed our personal mythology.

Pretz seeks to "elevate the ordinary." Through diverse media, he strives to separate the self from self through analysis, creating a virtual third-person point of view. Such analysis leads to the broadening of perspective, and unveils the ignored through the obvious.

Campbell sees the self as an object, or a material that can be used up. Her work is an examination of how appearance affects the perception of one's self internally and externally.

i.'d.: I is, is i? will be at the Urban Culture Project Space until Jan. 6.

Urban Culture Project Space / 21 East 12th Street, KCMO 64105 Exhibition runs November 19, 2010-January 6, 2011 Gallery Hours: 12-5 Wed, Fri, Sat; 11-6 Thurs.