

August 2008

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NANCY REDDIN KIENHOLZ

5 September - 4 October 2008

Reception for the artist:

Friday, 5 September, 6 - 8 p.m.

L.A. Louver is pleased to present the first solo exhibition of new work by artist Nancy Reddin Kienholz.

The exhibition will feature two new series of lenticulars. Lenticulars are works that employ a lens through which a printed or photographic image is viewed. When the viewing angle is changed, one image blends with, and then switches to, another image.

The central tenet behind this new body of work is about choices in life. As Kienholz says: "There are some issues - such as those relating to wars and religion - that just make me crazy. I want to put a lens - literally and figuratively - over the choices we make, and what it means to make these choices."

In the image-based series, Kienholz juxtaposes provocative visuals: Christ on the cross transforms into Santa Claus; a street paved with gold becomes a road of guns; the back of the Statue of Liberty evolves into the back of a young girl walking in a wasteland. As the viewer shifts back and forth in front of the work, each contrasting image becomes clear, and then is partially obscured when overlaid with the other image. The impression formed in transit between the two images sets up a dialogue between the two primary images.

The text-based series are comprised of single words that are written in black, in the artist's own hand, and set against a white background. Each word is paired with its opposite, such as black and white; soft and hard; war and peace. In these works, the flow of the cursive text seems to emphasize the easy shift from one side to the other in the opposing pairings. As the viewing angle changes and the words overlay each other, it also appears as if another word or words are made - as if a new word can be formed or discovered in the transition.



Soldier's Cross, January 18, 2008
Lenticular (mixed media)
69 x 35 1/2 x 1 1/2 in. (175 x 90 x 4 cm)



Santa Christ, March 5, 2007
Lenticular (mixed media)
57 1/2 x 35 x 1 in. (146 x 89 x 2.5 cm)

Nancy Reddin Kienholz was born in Los Angeles in 1943, daughter of Betty Reddin and L.A. police chief Tom Reddin. Nancy met her future husband, Ed Kienholz, at a party her parents hosted in 1972. In 1972, Ed was already famous for his provocative assemblages and installations. The two were instantly attracted, were soon married, and Nancy, who like Ed is a self-taught artist, began to collaborate with her husband making work. As Nancy says: "I went to the 'School of Kienholz' for over twenty years. I am a photographer, but Ed taught me everything I know about art. He taught me to weld and solder, cast figures, paint and to believe in my 'Eye.'" Less than a decade following their first collaboration, Ed publicly declared that all work that had been made since 1972 would bear both artists' signatures. And, as this formidable team of two, they made work together until Ed's death in 1994.

Ed and Nancy Kienholz's work may be found in many museum collections worldwide including Centre Pompidou, Paris; Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam; Moderna Museet, Stockholm; Louisiana Museum, Humblebaek; Museum of Modern Art, New York; Menil Collection, Houston; and the Los Angeles County Museum of Art. The artists' have also participated in many prestigious group exhibitions including the Whitney Museum of American Art Biennial, New York (1981); the Biennale of Sydney, Australia (1988); and the Biennale di Venezia, Italy (1990). In 1996, the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, presented the artists' first joint retrospective that traveled to the Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, and Berlinsiche Galerie, Berlin.

L.A. Louver is open Tuesday through Saturday, 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Validated parking available.

For further information and visuals please contact:
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