

Gallery Gourmet: a spin through local art exhibits



Showings around town appeal to a variety of tastes

03:12 PM CDT on Tuesday, April 1, 2008

Christine Gedeon, Marisa Olson at And/Or

With no shortage of pictures of Paris Hilton, Nicole Richie and Lindsay Lohan on newsstands and computer monitors, you might think that every possible perspective of them has been exhausted. But new works by Christine Gedeon expose an unexpected dimension of these starlets: an overhead view. Ms. Gedeon pairs photographs of these celebrities with their corresponding dimensions – rendered in architectural blueprints – as seen from above.

In a two-artist show at And/Or Gallery with fellow New Yorker Marisa Olson, the artist examines the new media lens and the ways it portrays and distorts all aspects of our lives. Ms. Gedeon renders Lilo's dimensions as 17 inches wide by 20 inches deep, indicating a figure whose media footprint is far larger than her diminutive frame suggests – and whose ubiquitous presence turns us all into paparazzi. She takes the architecture pun further by pairing photographs of political figures such as Ariel Sharon and Condoleezza Rice with their blueprint-drawing counterparts – metaphorical architects of domestic and foreign policy.

Ms. Gedeon's roundabout portraiture joins one sort of image with another to clarify her subject's significance. Ms. Olson borrows images more directly from her online and digital sources. For her "Monitor Drawings" series, she Googles images of various electronic personal effects – iPods, cellphones and the like – and then traces them on paper directly off her computer screen. "Peace Offerings" also finds her taking digital paths to her art. For this series, Ms. Olson arranges the distinctive patterns and colors of mathematical Mandelbrot sets with pixelated eight-bit clip art, contrasting the present in digital drawing with its roots.

Ms. Olson, who showed recently at the Dallas Center for Contemporary Art and spoke at the recent College Art Association conference in Dallas, made a splash when she decided to audition for *American Idol* and blog the process, editing the results for a video titled *The One That Got Away*. That elusive American Dream, and how it is realized through cellphone snapshots of celebs or YouTube rants about politicians, seems to be the common ground for Ms. Gedeon and Ms. Olson.

Kriston Capps

Through April 12 at And/Or Gallery, 4221 Bryan St., Suite B. 214-824-2442, andorgallery.com.

