

experiment02

In their second duo show, and third large scale collaboration, marcus neustetter and nathaniel stern use simple technologies to explore different ways of looking. With *experiment02*, Neustetter continues on his *Digital Frottage* track, while Stern embarks on what he has been ironically calling *Compressionism*. Both artists are using various capture and display modes, sending physical objects and bodies, over time, through digital and analogical mediations. The work is intended to ask us all to "look again".

This dialogue developed out of their first exhibition, *The Getaway Experiment*, at *The Artspace*, and *getawayexperiment.net*, a commissioned project for *Turbulence*

afterimage



"scanning" franchise
process documentation (photo by nathaniel stern)

Continuing experimentation with his *Digital Frottage*, scanning, photocopying and photographically exposing his laptop screen, Marcus Neustetter is exploring the concept of "scanning" space without the use of digital technology. What could the analogue equivalent be for the capturing of light and space? Using sensitized paper and a development process with ammonia fumes, Neustetter's site-specific work is scanning physical space at Franchise. This visual outcome continues to explore his interest in the aesthetic translation and abstraction of experimental digital and analogue inputs and outputs.

Before 1978, Ozalid, a company that used the same technique for blueprint and plan copying, and is now providing Neustetter with material, was based in the space where Franchise is exhibiting the work today. To Neustetter this adds an additional quirky dimension to the idea of creating a site-specific work in the Franchise space.

Compressionism



compressing franchise
performance (photo by Lara Rivera)

Compressionism is a digital performance, and an analog archive; it utilizes various "perform and capture," "edit and exhibit" modes, and the resulting art-objects-as-evidence ask viewers to explore different ways of looking. The first *Compressionist* studies use the reflective beam of a moving digital scanner, over time, to compress large spaces or objects into images the size of a small sheet of paper. Once a performance is digitized and compressed, the computer acts as multiple frames for its subject; it's used to process, clarify, and unpack the study - both literally, and metaphorically. The resulting prints are intended to provoke a complex conversation between artist, performance, mediation tool, art-object(s) and viewer. More info: <http://Compressionism.net>

about the artists

marcus neustetter has been developing projects addressing the relationship between art and technology. These take the form of mobile, installation, and web artworks tackling the translation of data through different online and offline platforms. In this process he has been exploring the digital and analogue ways of representing virtual experiences. Marcus Neustetter has exhibited and has been actively involved in developing opportunities and platforms for local digital art through projects in South Africa and Europe, these include ARS Electronica (Austria), Transmediate.03 (Germany) and E-tester (Spain). As director (with Stephen Hobbs) of The Trinity Session and sanman (southern african new media art network) and The Gallery PREMISES, Marcus Neustetter is actively involved in developing cultural strategies through a range of projects. <http://onair.co.za/mn>

nathaniel stern is an internationally exhibited installation artist, net.artist and performance poet. His interactive installations have won awards in New York, South Africa and Australia, and his net.art, recently commissioned by turbulence.org, has been featured in festivals all over Europe, Asia and the US. nathaniel's collaborative physical theatre and multimedia performance work has won three FNB Vita Awards - including Best Presentation of a New Contemporary Work - and has been featured on the main stage at the Grahamstown Festival (South Africa). His poetry repertoire includes the US National Poetry Slam competition and the RSA HIV/AIDS Arts, Media & Film Festival. <http://nathanielstern.com>