



LIE ORSER

WORLD PIECE

ARMORY EXHIBIT EXAMINES WHERE WE BEST FIT IN

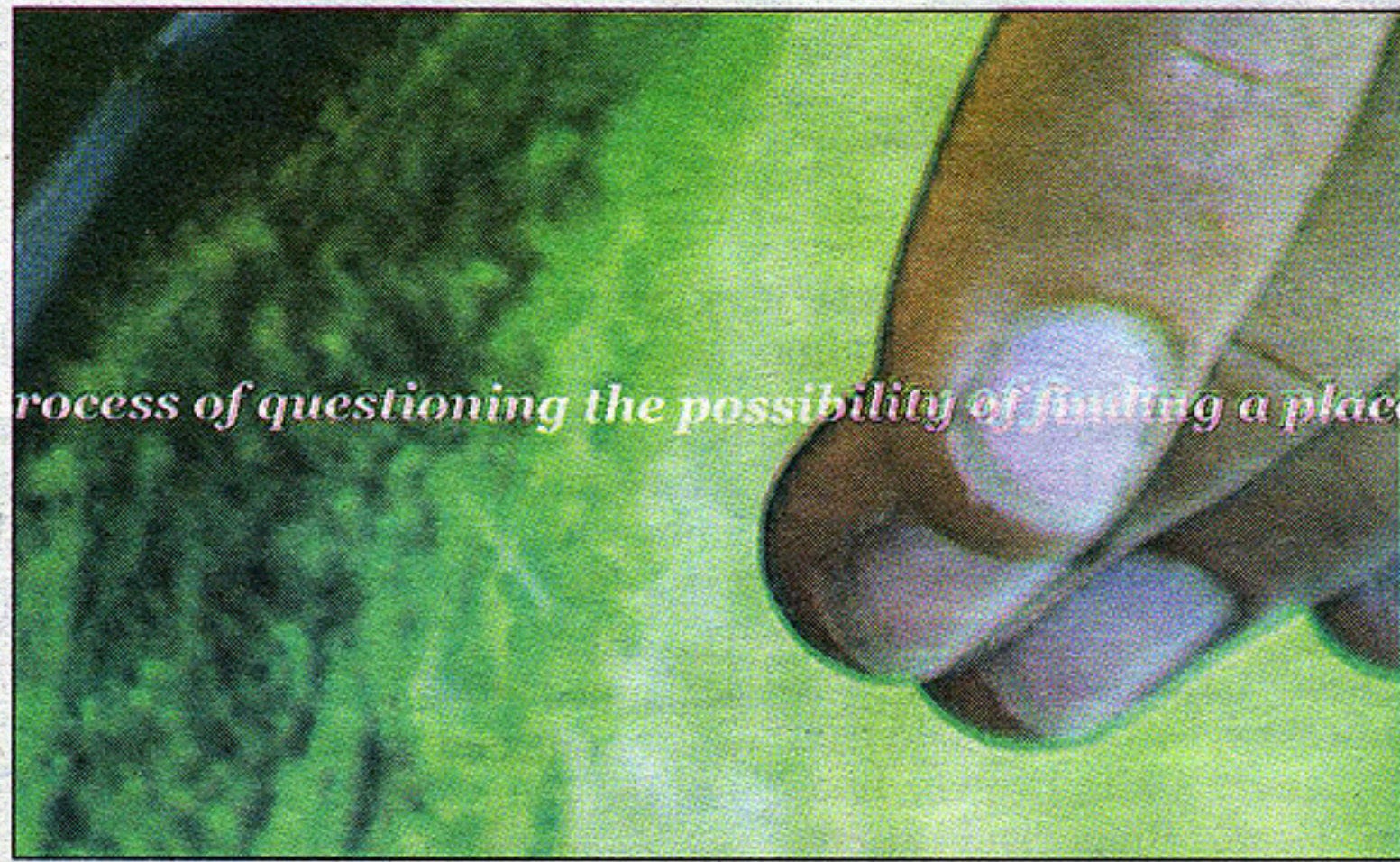
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Some of us, during certain holiday seasons, take time to consider the connotations of the word home. What constitutes a home? How do concepts of home change over time? Can home places change? Can one go back? Can one start over? Or is home just a state of mind?

A video installation at the Armory Center for the Arts outpost gallery Armory Northwest/965 takes a look at thoughts about home in an exhibition entitled "At Home in the World." Eight video installations fill the Center's warehouse-cum-gallery space on North Fair Oaks Avenue in Pasadena. There, seven artists look at notions of place and space at the specific boundaries of place and the unknown limits of space where no boundaries exist.

While not wanting to sound like a holiday commercial, "hurry up, this is your last chance to see a thought provoking installation," hurry is what one must do as the exhibition closes Sunday at 5 p.m. The gallery will be open from noon to 5 p.m. today, Saturday and Sunday.

Curated by Elise Barclay, exhibitions manager and assistant curator at the Armory Center, the exhibition looks at both specific places and shared spaces as the artists explore complex relationships, ranging from the



rocess of questioning the possibility of finding a place

38 MINUTES OF ANTHROPOLOGY (STRANGERS TO OURSELVES)
TWO CHANNEL VIDEO INSTALLATION | ARTIST: JOSE CARLOS TEIXEIRA

intimate to the distant. Featured artists are Janine Antoni, Irit Batsry, Julie Orser, Jennifer L. Porter, Efrat Shalem, Jose Carlos Teixeira and Josh Weinstein.

"All these artists," said Barclay, "think about place and space in different ways. Feelings of fantasy, of memory and language, and of abstraction are all part of the process," adding that while the video-based works explore individual and isolated experiences, the works also reflect a shared state of being in the world.

As curator Barclay had definite ideas about the exhibition and sought out the seven artists based on prior works. "I was looking for original work and was hoping to get an interesting mix of different backgrounds. I did not want it to be all about landscape," she said, "and did

not want all works to be notions about home. I was interested in a medium as used by the artists that evolved over the course of video art.

"All the pieces are short," noted Barclay, "and one of the beauties of the exhibition is you can get something from them and not spend a whole day at a gallery. Some of the more successful are the very simple pieces that do not have a lot of manipulations," but she added, "Some that appear to be simple are actually complicated."

More artwork can also be seen at the Armory Northwest/965. On the exterior wall of the main building, on the north end facing Fair Oaks, is a billboard project featuring "Northwest Portraits." The project is part of an ongoing program initiated by an artists-for-the-arts organization

called NewTown. Director Richard Amromin said that this is the ninth in a series of 11 portraits of residents of northwest Pasadena.

The current billboard features a collaboration between artist Bia Gayotto and northwest Pasadena resident Mindy Pfeiffer. "I was inspired by Pfeiffer's commitment to the slow food movement," said Gayotto, "and organized a potluck with eight women who represent the ethnic makeup of the Pasadena community by asking each participant to bring a dish representative of her own culture."

A photograph was made of the event, blown up to billboard size and the resulting image hangs on the side of the building. Now in its fourth season, Amromin calls NewTown a multidiscipline arts presenter run by local artists, one that strives to place art in the public domain and to encourage work that crosses disciplines and goes outside formal formats.

Exhibitions are curated within the organization.

Back to video art, Barclay said that the Armory Center will continue its ongoing program of video art screenings, which began in March of this year. Entitled DigitalForum, this outdoor public venue is dedicated to continuous screenings of video art, she said. In February, a curated selection of art videos will be projected nightly on a cinema-sized screen outdoors in Pasadena at the Courtyard at One Colorado.

AT HOME IN THE WORLD

Armory Northwest 965

965 N. Fair Oaks Ave., Pasadena (Turn in the driveway that runs alongside 965 and drive to the rear of the building. The entrance to the gallery is on the northwest side.)

Noon-5 p.m. today, Saturday and Sunday | Free | (626) 792-5101