

CHARLES GAINES (b. 1944, Charleston, SC)

***Absent Figures: Rainier (Ice Falls Files)*, 2000-2001**

Found photography rephotographed

Dimensions variable

Exhibitions:

Richard Heller Gallery, Santa Monica, Calif, 2000

Airplanecrash Clock. Museum of Contemporary Art, San Diego, 2001

Lurid Stories: Charles Gaines Projects 1995-2001. Adaline Kent Award Exhibition. Walter/McBean Gallery, San Francisco Art Institute, Calif.; Luckman Fine Art Gallery, Cal State University, Los Angeles; Phoebe Conley Art Gallery, California State University, Fresno, CA, 2001-03

Survey exhibition 1991-2004. Triple Candie, New York, 2004

Notes:

Absent Figures: Rainier (2000-01) is a work that is based on research into climbing accidents that have occurred on Mount Rainier in Washington. In this work, selected images and texts collected from these archives are used to produce a montage that reconstructs narratives or story boards that tell "chilling" experiences of victims of ice falls, avalanches, falls, hypothermia and other tragedies. This is played out in images from Rainier culled from different archives mostly unrelated to the specific event in each work. Printed over is a text that narrates a specific accident. The mountain image produces a sentiment realized by the difference between its imponderable size and power and the intimate scale of human effort. The disaster is a reminder of this uneven playing field. This use of the sublime unpacks aesthetics as culturally driven by gaps in our understanding and not as a transcendental experience.

Literature:

Time Out New York. 13-20 April 2000, p. 69.

Bonetti, David. "Gaines probes darkness in 'Lurid Stories' show." *San Francisco Chronicle*, 7 July 2001, p. C1.

Cotter, Holland. "Charles Gaines Survey Exhibition: 1991-2004." *New York Times*, 30 April 2001, p. B31.

Helfand, Glen. "Lurid Stories: Charles Gaines." *The San Francisco Bay Guardian*, 4-10 July 2001, vol. 35, no. 40, p. 73.

Miles, Christopher. "Charles Gaines." *Artforum*, February 2001, p. 158.

Olson, Marisa S. "Lurid Stories: Charles Gaines at the San Francisco Art Museum." *Artweek*, September 2001, vol. 32, issue 9, pp. 19-20.

Sirmans, Franklin and Charles Gaines. *Lurid Stories: Charles Gaines Projects from 1995-2001*. San Francisco: San Francisco Art Institute, Walter/McBean Gallery, 2001, ill. pp. 12, 14, 16, 18 (color).