

CHARLES GAINES (b. 1944, Charleston, SC)

Greenhouse, 2004-2007

Mixed media, computer, lights, fog machine

Greenhouse: 96 x 144 x 72 in.

Computer with cabinet: 24 x 24 x 66 in.

Exhibitions:

Charles Gaines: Survey exhibition 1991-2004. Triple Candie, New York, NY, 2004

Greenhouse. LAX><ART, Los Angeles, 2007

La Biennale di Venezia, Arsenale. Curated by Robert Storr . Venice, 2007.

Notes:

Greenhouse (2004) resembles an enclosure for plants such as a greenhouse designed to suggest a sealed atmospheric space. Inside the structure (which is encased in acrylic sheets) are 2000 artificial red poppies. In a cabinet standing at the corner of the "house" is a computer attached to a transformer that converts electronic information to voltage. On the transformer are four meters. Each meter is attached to a rheostat that is in turn attached to color lights on the house's ceiling. The computer dials up a website that shows the levels of pollutants from the LA basin. These numbers are then converted to voltage. The voltage feeds power to color lights located on the ceiling of the structure. Using a link to a website, the computer takes a reading every 15 minutes, the results change the amount of voltage fed to each light, thus changing its luminosity. Thus the colors and their luminosity represent the level of deadly pollutants. Also, every 15 minutes a fog is released into the structure producing a cloud, cutting visibility; but glows, illuminated by the color lights. The fog dissipates in a short amount of time, leaving the air in the greenhouse clear.

Literature:

Bedford, Christopher. "Charles Gaines at LAXART." *Artforum.com*, 19 July, 2007.

Brooks, Amra. "Must See Art: Charles Gaines' Greenhouse." *LA Weekly*, 25 July 2007.

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

Mizota, Sharon. "Clarity in every crisis." *Los Angeles Times*, Calendar, 29 July 2007.

Ohlman, Leah. "Smoggy side of L.A. 'Greenhouse.'" *Los Angeles Times*, 10 August 2007.