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COMMAND Z

Curated by:
Ted Fisher (New York)
Douglas McCulloh (Los Angeles)

On view March 31 - May 26, 2007
Opening Reception: Saturday, March 31, 7 – 10 pm

Command Z—the Apple keyboard command for undo—presents work by artists exploring the leading edge of digital photography.

Works by: Kate Bingaman-Burt (Starkville, Mississippi); Rebeca Bollinger (San Francisco); Stéphane Degoutin, Marika Dermineur & Gwenola Wagon (Paris, France); Charles Fairbanks (Ann Arbor, MI); Ryan Gallagher (Austin, TX); Ken Gordon (New York); Martha Gorzycki (San Francisco); John Greyson (Toronto, Canada); Jonathan Harris & Sep Kamvar (San Francisco and New York); Noah Kalina (Brooklyn); Luke Lamborn (Provincetown, MA); leadingzeros (Tokyo, Japan); League of Imaginary Scientists (Los Angeles); Ahree Lee (San Francisco); Iris Lee (Brooklyn); Les LeVeque (New York); Michael David Murphy (San Francisco); Olde English (Brooklyn); Dane Picard (Los Angeles); Stuart Pound (London, Britain); Jacob Reed (Los Angeles); Hong-An Truong (Irvine); Jody Zellen (Los Angeles)

Photographic artists currently find themselves poised at a rare and remarkable moment—a revolutionary shift in basic technology and artistic possibility.

There are two primary drivers of the digital revolution: extremely prolific photographic production and an intensifying circulation of these images on the web. In this situation, the systems of encountering the photographs become central, rather than the photographs themselves.

The artistic responses to the vast new digital image stream are memorable, captivating, and have the power to change your view of the world. For **Command Z**, examples are drawn from around the world: London, Los Angeles, New York, Paris, San Francisco, Tokyo, Toronto, and other points on the grid. By drawing from such a diverse group, **Command Z** sets out to make mid-stream sense of the paradigm shift in photography.

Some 40 billion digital images were made in 2003, the year that digital camera sales surpassed those of conventional film-based devices. In 2004, the amount of photos produced rose to 94 billion, according to former Hewlett-Packard CEO, Carly Fiorina. Phone maker Nokia estimates that camera-phones alone will create 100 billion increasingly high resolution photographs in 2007. And Hewlett-Packard predicts that digital devices will capture 312 billion images in 2008. Whatever the exact figures, the unprecedented scale of image-making is clear.

Meanwhile, the internet makes these images omnipresent and available. One example among many is the website, www.flickr.com. In February 2004, Flickr emerged as an online photo storage and sharing system. By November of 2005 the New York Times reported that photographs available on Flickr passed the billion-image mark. The site now adds more than a *million photographs per day*.

The result for the new photographic artists is the rarest of situations—completely unexplored artistic territory. Rather than merely make images, digital artists now devise methods of gathering, sorting and encountering images. The results range from the mundane to the sublime, from the hilarious to the strangely profound. In all cases, this is a largely new art, made possible by the scale of the current image universe and enabled by the new tools for encountering it, reshaping it, and making sense of it.

About the curators:

Ted Fisher exhibits in galleries and film festivals and curates museum exhibitions and video programs. From 1997 - 2002 he served as Curator of Digital Media at the California Museum of Photography at the University of California, Riverside. There he founded the Digital Studio program, which has been awarded three National Endowment for the Arts grants. Since 2001 he's taught over 60 courses in subjects such as Adobe Photoshop, Digital Video, and Digital Photography. He has an MFA in Art from Claremont Graduate University and is currently studying documentary practice and theory at The New School in New York.

Douglas McCulloh is an artist based in Los Angeles. He teaches digital photography at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, exhibits widely, and curates exhibitions of photography and new media. *On The Beach*, a book of chance-driven portraits of beachgoers was published by the Southeast Museum of Photography. A book sampling Southern California, *Chance Encounters*, was co-published by the University of California and California Museum of Photography. In 2006, McCulloh was one of six artists who transformed an abandoned F-16 jet hanger at the El Toro military base in Orange County into the world's largest camera in order to produce a single photograph three stories high and eleven stories wide. He is now completing a commission to make 60,000 digital photographs in Hollywood. He is an honors graduate of the University of California at Santa Barbara and holds an MFA in Photography and New Media from Claremont Graduate University.

Associated Event:**Curator's talk with Douglas McCulloh
Friday, May 4, from 7-8 pm**

Also on May 4th: *Starters*, a free DJ event sponsored by the Torrance Cultural Arts Center Foundation, from 8 – 10 pm

Both the Curator's Talk and Starters are free.

Also on view at the Torrance Art Museum:

Gallery Two: *Maggie Tennesen/Spatiotemporal Variability*
South Bay Focus: *Diane Reeves/Duets*

About the Torrance Art Museum:

The Torrance Art Museum is a program of the Cultural Services Division of the City of Torrance Community Services Department. The Cultural Services Division is responsible for City-sponsored arts and cultural initiatives held at the Torrance Cultural Arts Center and throughout the City.

Through its emphasis on contemporary artistic expression in Southern California, the Torrance Art Museum brings together visual artists and community members; fosters personal and civic well being by inspiring understanding and appreciation of the visual arts; promotes meaningful experiences in the arts to strengthen creative and critical thinking skills; and builds bridges between the visual arts and other disciplines in the humanities and sciences.

The exhibition **Command Z** has been made possible in partnership with the Torrance Cultural Arts Center Foundation, Inc. Educational programming has been supplemented by a generous grant from Los Angeles County Supervisor Don Knabe and his 2006 Arts Education Partnership.

Additional equipment has been provided by the **Torrance Best Buys**. Giving back to communities is central to the way they do business.

Admission to exhibits at the Torrance Art Museum is free. Regular hours of operation are Tuesday through Saturday, from 12 - 6 pm. Additional information about special events and upcoming arts programming at the Torrance Art Museum can be requested by email at torranceartmuseum@torrnet.com or by calling 310-618-6340.