

Manifest opens a study in movement

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Sometimes we take movement for granted, posits Manifest Gallery executive director Jason Franz.

When you consider that the Earth is rotating at 1,000 miles per hour, Franz muses, there's no arguing that "everything about our lives, and life on Earth, is inextricably linked to movement of one form or another."

In honor of the phenomenon of transiting space, relative location, and action (and reaction), Manifest Gallery opens *Kinetica*, which Franz calls "quite possibly one of the most unusual exhibitions ever presented" at the gallery.

On view in a spare, museum-like layout are three works which do move; four video-based works; and three non-moving works which are generated by, or about, movement.

They include Jacob Tonski's sofa that balances on one leg; Ryan Buysens' sequence of real-life marching matchstick men, Pablo Garcia's three-dimensional realization of a live-animation based on images by Albrecht Dürer and Mark Nystrom's image generated by wind data.

Some works, Franz said, actually spin, "but with the purpose of the movement being an effect of light. What you see (is) an illusion, not so much the movement itself."

Others (including the sofa) move very subtly, "but it is the potential movement this work is really about – contrasting balance with imbalance, and suggesting thoughtful consideration about the interior forces constantly used to maintain composure, a center of gravity and wholeness against the natural forces of chaos and decay."

Works, like the digital prints of Mark Nystrom, and a toy-like wooden sculpture by Sam Nichols do not move at all.

"In the case of Nichols' 'Still Life #2,' the movement is quietly depicted as a frozen moment (in a violent highway collision) in simple unfinished wood. But the wood is splintered," Franz said.

"Nystrom's abstract aluminum prints are the quintessential formal example, with lines and textures, colors and shapes, all suggesting but not depicting movement itself. Their beauty is underscored by the fact that they are in fact visualizations of data derived from movement, one from wind and the other from music.

"Finally, Kate Shannon's trio of animated sequences 'Untitled from Construction/Destruction' challenge the viewer even to notice the Wright Brothers' airplane sailing through the air... defying or succumbing to the same chaotic forces Tonski's sofa so steadfastly denies."

- Also on view is "Fictive Portraits: Prints by Dennis Olsen," a solo exhibition of more than 20 of Olsen's intaglio prints.

Olsen is a professor of printmaking, drawing, and digital media at the University of Texas at San Antonio. Defining the work at Manifest, he said, "Like authors who frequently say that their fictitious characters take them in unexpected directions, such journeys lead me to places that I have never visited and demand a resolution that can only be described as discovery."