



Strive

ANSEN SEALE

For years photographers have used their craft to imitate the real world. But what happens when the camera stops mirroring reality and starts reinterpreting it? San Antonio artist and photographer Ansen Seale continues to push the limits of this uneasy relationship between what we think we see and the use of a machine (the camera) to do our seeing for us. Through the eye of the lens, we come face to face with a strange reality indeed.

Seale's most recent work uses his own invention, a digital slitscan camera. The device is a combination of computer and camera specially designed to capture a reality which surrounds us everyday, but of which we are unaware.

In these unmanipulated images, what appear at first to be

distortions could really be described as a more accurate way of seeing the passage of time, although unfamiliar to our traditional conception of the depiction of time and space in art.

These photographs are really a kind of time exposure where only one tiny slice of reality is imaged at any given moment. This bit of the scene is then repeated over and over with moving objects inserting themselves into the data stream as they move through the single plane that the camera is focused on. The result is a mind-bending swap of the dimensions of X and time, where still objects are blurred and moving bodies are rendered clearly.

The images show some figures elongated, others stretched; some figures have stick legs while other's feet resemble skis. Shadows curve and landscapes are devoid of perspective. There is often an aura of wild color surrounding flowing figures.

But Seale sees much more than pretty pictures. He draws a link between the ephemeral nature of his fleeting images and the elusive nature of the quantum mechanical universe. Titles such as "Uncertainty" and "Heisenberg Figure" reveal the artists's world view: truth is stranger than fiction.

Seale's most recent work is on exhibit at the Bonham Exchange through January.

THROUGH THE EYE OF THE LENS

by Bob Bradley

Uncertainty



Hesenberg Figure

