

Art in review: [Final Edition]

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Full text

Abstract/Details

Abstract [Translate](#)

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RALPH ALLEN

Edge of Time

Edward Day Gallery

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The simplicity of design masks a depth of content. Allen raises questions not only concerning the relationship between the land and its inhabitants, but also the validity of our perspective into that relationship. These works ask if it is possible to analyse the human experience when we are such an intricate part of it. The table becomes a metaphor for "scientific investigation" and "museum display," and extends to the similarities between these two methods of inquiry and assessment.

Allen's pastel drawing of the human figure are subdued and eerily hypnotic.

The questions raised in the larger oil paintings are intimately addressed in these works.

The imagery is produced in a style that could easily be mistaken for studies. The investigation, however, is not of technique or form. These figures can be seen as anecdotal representations of the human experience; history told through gesture and pose. In this light the multiple image Ten Nudes and Isolated Figures become collections of short stories.

The ink drawings are thoughtfully positioned alongside these works. They dwell on a similar theme (in this case the male nude) and, in contrast to the other work, the production is terse and harshly executed. This shift in timbre gives these pieces an unsympathetic, yet striking and immediate appeal.

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