

# ARTFORUM

## “After Images”

JEWISH MUSEUM OF BELGIUM

rue des Minimes 21

April 29–August 28

This vast exhibition gathers a selection of work by thirty-four contemporary artists; many of the pieces are loaned from private Belgian collections. Curated by Fionn Meade and set in the rear of the museum's complex, in a building that was occupied by the German *Wehrmacht* during World War II, the show opens up questions regarding the overload of visual representations in contemporary culture. Important works by a now historical generation of artists such as Sherrie Levine, and precursors including John Baldessari, are aptly included.

At times, the subtler works—such as those by Tom Burr and Christopher Williams—seem to be lost within the show's theme, and could perhaps benefit from a more explicit contextualization. Jenny Perlin's black-and-white 16-mm films *Notes* and *Inaudible*, both 2006–10, use image and sound to engage in critical writing with light that opens up readily to grasping its deeper level of meaning, implicating a Warburgian temporality of the “afterimage” as trace. Likewise many of the other pieces dwell on profound issues, such as memory and its operational processes. They initiate a perceptual process of information registration—both figurative and abstract—that fills the spectator with many uncertainties. Uri Aran's *All This Is Yours*, 2010, comprises a table featuring a small television playing the end credits of *Black Beauty* (1979), scattered wood shavings, bits of cereal, a cookie, a broken fake coin, and two toy mice encased in glaze. Such confrontation between an absolute moment of happiness and widespread disorder disturbingly demonstrates how the specific setting within the Jewish Museum adds to the spectator's need to come to terms with subtly evoked concerns about political and ideological conflict.



**View of “After Images,” 2011.** From left: Roe Ethridge, *Moon*, 2003–2008; Roe Ethridge, *Red Diamondback*, 2006; Roe Ethridge, *Sunset #3*, 2008. Center: Uri Aran, *All This Is Yours*, 2010.

— Hilde Van Gelder

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