

PhysiogNONomy

student curator, Dutton Sandosky

Within representational bodies of art, the face is often one of the most important signifiers of identity. One's physiognomy is said to give insight into the person, and certain features, such as gapped teeth and facial symmetry, are paired with various good and bad connotations.

PhysiogNONomy however moves away from the notion of the natural human face being a signifier of personality or humanity. We are often taught that simply because someone looks good, doesn't mean they are. The works in this show possess the common feature of the distortion and manipulation of the human face for both aesthetic and conceptual purposes. By altering the face, the artist is able to change the perception of how the viewer interacts with the human figure and gives new insights into the interpretation of the figure in art.

Human forms exhibited within the show are at times unrecognizable, particularly in the work of Adam T Rush. Although the humanity is at times purged, this allows for the human face to be appreciated for its formal qualities and interactions with other non-human aspects on the work.

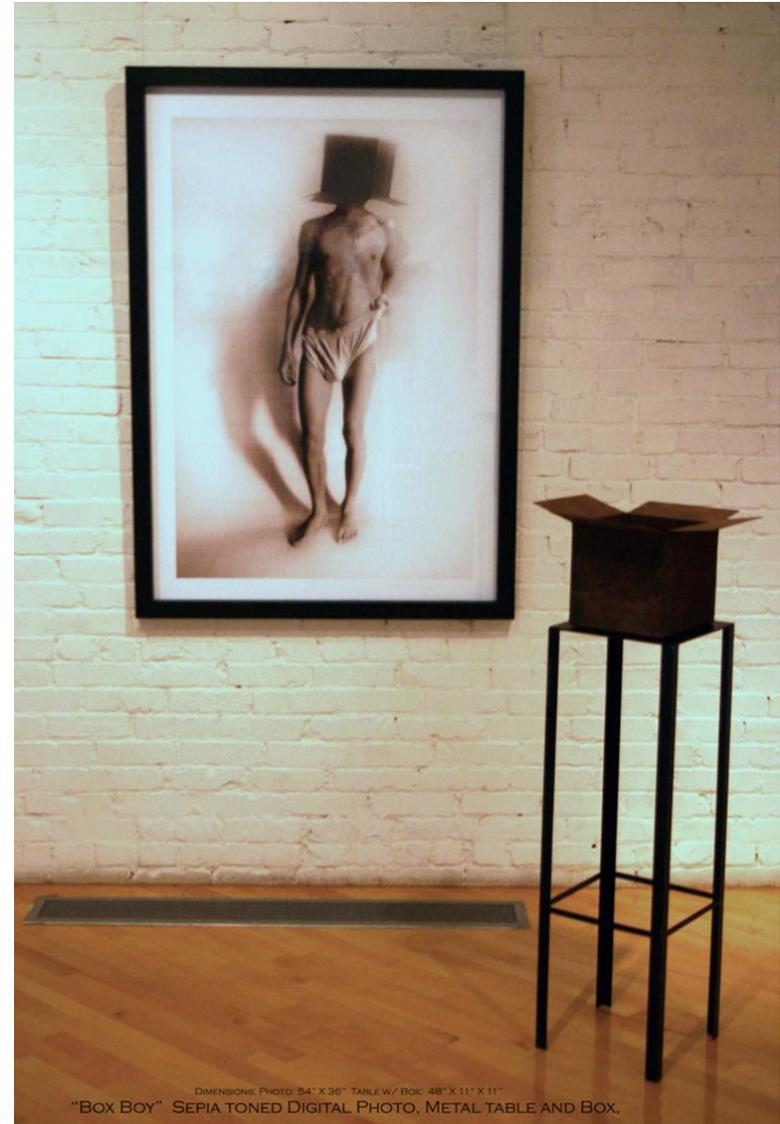
Works that stay true to the structure of the face in relation to the body also appear in the show in the works of Hoeckel, Braslavsky, and Sehanovic. For as much as the identities of the subjects have been distorted, the distortions allow for new interpretations of the human figure. Color, texture, and ornamentation can all convey meaning, and when juxtaposed against the human figure, these purely formal aspects can create new interpretations and signify meanings that would not exist without the added aspects.

The show possesses an emphasis on a “collaged” aesthetic. Though some of the works are not collage or mixed-media, this emphasis on disparate images is intentional as it reflects the plurality of human-existence. We as people are conglomerates of our experiences, and typical portraiture often fails to express this fact in its singular representations of human beings. The works in this show however seek to accentuate the view of humans as complicated creatures, full of idiosyncrasies and mysteries.

Milana Braslavsky*



Ben Dobbin



Beth Hoeckel*



Adam T Rush*



Emir Šehanović

