

Michelle Ceja

Born August 6th, 1988,
Los Angeles, California

Currently working with the non-physicality of the web and other electronic media outlets to create installation and sculptural works. References to minimalism and abstraction are essential to the process of making her pieces.

Parker Koo Ito

Born 1986, Ventura,
California

The virtual Parker Ito spends most of his time wearing a bathrobe, eating bad food, and surfing the Internet. The AFK Parker 2009 lives and works in Berkeley, CA with two bunnies, two cats, a beta fish, a hermit crab and his girlfriend. His life is inspired by the excesses and contradictions of his genius, charisma, and stand-up comedy routines.

Caitlin Denny

Born 1986, San Diego,
California

Recent graduate of CCA in Media Arts, she is currently making installation and web based art focused on space, time and the absurdity of the human.

Bryan Morello

Born 1988, San
Francisco, California

Currently interested in "real life", and "meaning", Bryan works with drawing and digital photographic collage and collects overworked digital art from Flickr.com, as well as low quality Youtube videos.

Pleasure is mine

Cali style

Michelle, Caitlin and Parker are this year part of the online Lyon biennial :
www.mybiennialisbetterthanyours.com

Parker was part of the first internet pavilion at the Venice Biennial 2009
www.biennale.net

Organised by :

Katya Bonnenfant, currently trying to convince her french students at the ENBA Lyon to use the internet as place for the art.

More about the schools :

California College of the Arts
<http://www.cca.edu>

École Nationale Des Beaux-Arts Lyon
<http://www.enba-lyon.fr>

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SpaceKraft Pompadour presents :

Pleasure is mine – Cali style

« The pleasure is mine – cali style » is an exhibition comprised of print, video, sculpture and new media works by Michelle Ceja, Caitlin Denny, Parker Ito and Bryan Morello. The four artists are former students of Katya Bonnenfant's web based class called Banal Strangeness, at CCA, fall 2008. Once they gazed into each other eyes they were forever connected by unknown universal forces like peas in a (i)pod. Hailing from San Francisco, the artists hope to show Lyon a thing or two about the experience of pleasure in the reigning age of digital natives – Cali style!

Pleasure is usually an indication of gain – adding something positive to one's life. But in this new age, an age of digital rebirth, digital death and digital freedom, pleasure is now a lack. The loss of knowledge and the loss of meaning can be fun! We have given up any mortal obligations towards structure, truth and linear sequential living for electro-ephemeral delight instead. This is where pleasure is initiated; the imaginary and reality blur into a fantastical barrage of meaninglessness – an infinite field without division. Visual information exists now as an anti-climax, always on the way towards something else, in anticipation of. And desire is just anticipation. This is contemporary pleasure: the simplicities of life exuding themselves onto the previous complications. We exist to have fun!

Caitlin Denny, september 2009

Chat room low tech for real / assignment :
take a pen, a piece of paper, answer the question,
and pass the sheet to your left neighbor.

☺ Postmodernism ?

- > Identifying the anti-identity.
 - This sound like an intense investigation, are you in therapy?
 - This is what america is all about : going to the shrink to CONFESS A LITTLE BIT MORE. But Californian dudes are at least confessing under the sun.
 - W.W.W.
- > Richard Prince, Jeff Koons, Sherrie Levine, Damien Hirst, Takashi Murakami.
 - A/S/L' ?
 - BBB / BBW / M4F / M4M / W4W2.
- > Postmodernism is beyond modern and after modernist ideas.
 - After the end of all ideas, unleashing a force of brilliant backwash.
- > I don't remember it very well. It was long time ago.
 - Altermodernism ? Post-post modernism? Chillin' ? Whatever.
 - Yeah, who cares ? I'm chillin hard on the westcoast. Who knows if the idea of altermodern is true!
 - We are all riding a train going to some bullshit place called the future.
- > Shattering of the glass.
 - So now the subject is split into thousands of representations, it's difficult to pick out the one to be the most efficient, just like this scene of The Lady from Shanghai³, in a surreal climatic shootout in a hall of mirrors.
- > Pomo is a process of opening which denies finality, definition, authorship, truth, origins, genius. ing the anti-identity.

- Pomo looks like porno.
 - I am a genius.
 - How can genius be translated onto objects and space?
 - Accidentally.
- Pomo's the Oakland CCA server.

☺ Cali style ?

- > All the kids in Cali are chillin cuz we no we R so illin yo yo we 4 realz foo.⁴
 - Maybe we aren't really 4 real.
- > «out on bail, fresh outta jail california dreamin soon as I step on the scene, i'm hearin' hoochies screamin, california knows how to party, california knows how to party».⁵

☺ Collective ?

- > Life with the internet keeps it kind of fake. We all have that in common, we Rinternet cr@zy.
- > En français : association de malfaiteurs.
- > We are a group of objects floating in a transitory space of anti-culture.
 - Anti-culture ?
- > I don't use those words. We aren't a collective although we like to think it.
- > I couldn't call us a collective. I consider us to be friends with similar interests.
 - Or are we FRIENEMIES ?
 - No, we are just friends. Would being a collective make us stronger ?
- > LOL⁶.

☺ Do you believe in the action of the viewer ?

- > I would say no. but the internet died years ago. It's just a void. I guess it depends on the user's intentions. ~~What I mean to say is that internet doesn't~~ The internet is a cheap model of now.
- > fuck yea !

☺ Procrastination ? Focus ?

- > Concentration is possible.
 - Just look how messy is this writing exercice ? Do you really think you can still be concentrated on only one thing ?

- :::::INSERT WATER DROP SOUND:::::
- I like it when my concentration is pulled in different directions. Maybe this concentration crisis is just a readjustment in our style of communication ? Its interesting! GO WITH IT
- Concentrating on one thing at a time is for old people.

- The internet is not procrastination. Just an extension of my inter/outer beyond the material /materialistic world. I am focus on my world, I have made a clearing for myself in this world of moosh⁷.
- Depends on the person.
- The internet is changing the way we focus and right now I think society perceives this as procrastination.

- What is society ? People of more than 30 years old ? People paying taxes ? Essays writers ? Children and teens and you, young californian artists, aren't you THE SOCIETY as well ?

- Oh yes, we are the society, but even amongst us, the young californian artists, there are skeptics of the internet's validity as part of an art practice. So yes, as a whole, society (not just the bourgeoisie) thinks the internet is a «waste of time».
- Yeah, we are totally part of society. Its rad.
- Society is mainly old people who don't know how to use technology.

> Every thing is an escape from what we have been convinced is a «harsh» reality.

☺What are your advantages over the Frenchies?

> Our spontaneity lends to our willingness to make mistakes and be okay with it. As Americans, and especially Californians, we are much more interested in having the 'casualness' of art making rear it's head— the idea that art isn't made just from studying art history and locking yourself in some sort of romantic artist's studio with vault ceilings and a ray of light streaming through the stained glass. The idea of the civilized, well behaved and yes, sophisticated artist is trampled on by our crass and illogical manners and personalities, all of which comes through in our work. While the French artist is asking «So How?», the Californian artist is asking «So What?».

> I would say is having a more spontaneous culture. There isn't any clinging to traditions. Change keeps things exciting. Maybe that makes America naive, which I think could be disadvantageous, but we are still learning.

☺Good sides of Frenchies?

> Frenchies bring charm and romance into my web surfing skills/technique.
> School is cheaper. they have more nude beaches and are more sexually aware.

☺And what are Frenchies advantages over you?

> It will take some sort of strange maneuvering in the art world to be taken seriously... how that will be achieved I have no idea! I definitely think our niche is not valid enough for most high rung art critics/collectors/gallerists, though. The French artist, because of their tidy appearance (as a package) and dedication and reference to a specific history of art making (this is so broad, but whatever!) garner much more respect as learned and intelligent people worth making an investment of time or money in.
> I think the advantage they have over us, is being (or at least per-

ceived as being) more aware of their own history and culture. I think that makes them more sophisticated. I like that. In conclusion, America is complicated, not sophisticated.

☺Bad sides of Frenchies?

> <3 Their love for digital bread and cheese.

> They think they ARE CULTURE and are stereotyped as being snobby fuckheads.

☺Do you think there is still some subversive gender?

> Whatevs.

> Genderless

> Drop it like it's hot⁸.

> Do you like the smell of your ass?

- Never smelled it up close.
- if you haven't smelled your ass you're not alive.

> Can I still get gender?

☺A question to the group?

> Hey group, what are your ideas on : sex / art school / weed ?

- Mushroom forms / hand language / pot.

- ~~TIME TO THINK TIME TO LAY~~

OFF THE HYPE

- I like em all, I like da hype we gettin hyphy !

> How many shits do you take a day?

- 2

- 1

- I would take 5 if I could.

- Free shit, porn, kitties, homies, what is the question? cakefarts⁹ !!
Cakefarts is the guernica of our times

> Are you original?

- No, at this point, I'm pretty much just a copy. But I am originally californian. It's casual.

- HAL's Shutdown¹⁰

> Together do you have more power?

- «Power is when you have every justification to kill someone, and then you don't.» As long as we don't kill each other, I think we could be very powerful together!

- I think if ALL OUR computers were plugged in probably

- I think it depends,

I'm reluctant to say yes or no. ☺Was it a chat room ?
But the first thing that comes to mind when I hear "power" is "Power in numbers".

> Do you think Katya could really beat me in a dance off ?

- Yes.

- I beat Katya in a dance off, and she admitted my outfit was better than hers.

- About the outfit, it was made to please you only. But well, for the dance, I was thinking I was beating you till the point you give us this Beyonce dance If you like it you should put a ring on it. Then I thought : okay, you beat me.

fuck the dance

- Off, you looser can't talk about postmodernism.

- Losers are soooooo postmodern.

> if you could give up the physical world to live in cyberspace, would you ?

- Hell no.

- I fantasize that the human race will evolve into molecular clouds and inhabit portals in space.

- THERE IS NO PHYSICAL, THERE IS NO CYBER, THERE IS NO ESCAPE.

> Do you paint ? are you a painter ? You're an artist ?

- I do paint, therefore I am a painter, and I guess that could make me an artist. What does it mean to identify as an artist ?
- I am an artist.
It means to me.

> Am I part of the gang ?

- I can jump you in.

> Do you love each other ?

- I love myself.

> Do you love me ?

- I love you.

☺Was it a chat room ?

> No, I didn't really experience this as a chat room. Chat room make more sense !

> No, but my first experiences using chat rooms was around 3rd grade.

I loved chatting on AOL chat rooms, specifically chat rooms about alternative rock bands. [On a side note: AOL parental restrictions really cramped my style.]

> Yes, in the sense that we are all unprepared and spontaneous and reacting to very random uncompleted thoughts. AFK¹¹.

> Well, yes, chat room.

> We were «chatting» in a «room».

1. A/S/L for « age / sex / location »
2. BBB / BBW / FAM / M4M / W4W : nicknames that people use in mostly online advertisements for dating, for instance M4F for male for female or BBT for big black transgender.
3. *The Lady from Shanghai*, Orson Welles, 1947
4. « All the kids in Cali are chillin cuz we no we R so illin yo yo we 4 realz foo » : all the kids in california (meaning us, the artists) are so relaxed because we know that what we are doing is really good. So yes, we are in this in between world of physical and non physical, that is so real yet so unreal.
5. « out on bail, fresh outta jail california dreamin soon as I step on the scene, i'm hearin hoochies screamin, california knows how to party, california knows how to party » : 2Pac, *California Love*, album *All Eyez On Me*, Death Row label, 1995.
6. LOL : for Laughing Out Loud. One predicts reduced chances of employment for students who use such acronyms, stating that, « Unfortunately for these students, their bosses will not be 'lol' when they read a report that lacks proper punctuation and grammar, has numerous misspellings, made-up words, and silly acronyms. » Use of LOL is not necessarily genuine « How many people are actually 'laughing out loud' when they send LOL ? ».
7. moosh : a compilation of everything, information overload
8. Snoop Dogg, featuring Pharell, *Drop it like it's hot*, album *R&G (Rhythm & Gangsta) : The Masterpiece*, 2004.
9. <http://cakefarts.com>
10. - HAL [Shuting down] : I'm afraid. I'm afraid, Dave. Dave, my mind is going. I can feel it. I can feel it. My mind is going. There is no question about it. I can feel it. I can feel it. I can feel it. I'm a... fraid. Good afternoon, gentlemen. I am a HAL 9000 computer. I became operational at the H.A.L. plant in Urbana, Illinois on the 12th of January 1992. My instructor was Mr. Langley, and he taught me to sing a song. If you'd like to hear it I can sing it for you.
- Dave Bowman : Yes, I'd like to hear it, HAL. Sing it for me.
HAL : It's called « Daisy » [sings while slowing down] : Daisy, Daisy, give me your answer do. I'm half crazy all for the love of you. It won't be a stylish marriage, I can't afford a carriage. But you'll look sweet upon the seat of a bicycle built for two.
11. AFK : « When did you meet Gottfrid for the first time IRL? » asked the Prosecutor. « We do not use the expression IRL, » said Peter, « We use AFK. » « IRL? » questioned the judge. « In Real Life, » the Prosecutor explained to the judge. « We do not use that expression, » Peter noted. « Everything is in real life. We use AFK - Away From Keyboard. » - The Pirate Bay Trial Transcript, february 2009.

