

LIGHTBOX

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LightBox is pleased to present "Fade to Black", an exhibition featuring new works by Kirk Nelson. This show will mark Kirk Nelson's first solo exhibition at LightBox. The opening reception will take place on February 11, 2006 from 6-8pm. The show will run from February 11 through March 11.

In his collection of works entitled "Fade to Black" the multifaceted artist Kirk Nelson presents a dark and riveting video piece along with paintings and sculpture inspired by the video. Using a single channel projection, the dimly lit performer hammers out raw Metallica guitar riffs that embody the angst of the middle class male coming of age in contemporary society. Further capturing the emotional power of late adolescence, innocent dancers render light into the brooding melodic world using ballet and interpretive dance in order to taunt and cultivate the representation of idealized physical beauty. By fearless analysis and all-consuming rehearsal of the intricate and gut-wrenching Metallica compositions, music becomes the vehicle that allows the possibility for Everyman to obtain the object of his desire.

By directing all aspects of the work from costume/set design through choreography and musical arrangement, Nelson is able to achieve a minimal aesthetic dealing primarily with the formal issues of light and dark. Utilizing variegated blacks tempered by intermediate values, Kirk uses cross-hatching and layered brush techniques in his paintings and drawings. The deliberate and contrasting layering creates a complex textural quality with hints of transparency in the predominantly opaque compositions.

A purposeful absence of people in the stark environment outside of the video sets the mood and begs the question, who dwells here? Beneath the dark overtones and understated storytelling, the imagery is clearly universal, referencing loneliness, isolation and the cosmic power of nature.

For information please contact Evelyn FitzGibbon at 310-559-1111 or info@lightbox.tv . The gallery is located at 2656 S. La Cienega Blvd. Gallery hours are Tuesdays through Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.