

Susan Hobbs

New Beginnings

29 January to 14 March 2009

organized by Pamela Meredith



Soo Kim: *Totters back*, 2008, framed hand-cut C-print, 76.8 x 76.8 cm

Opening in January, this exhibition aims to explore some of the impulses that we indulge in the New Year (particularly this month with a new leader in the White House): hope, optimism, belief - notions that have been in short supply recently. The premise is a simple one and as always, the work complicates the issues. Artists using light, motivational text, sanguine performances, and beauty invite us to have some hope, take a leap of faith, and suspend disbelief if only for a moment.

Ann Dean & Tonik Wojtyra are first-time collaborators, contributing a very special sculptural work that encapsulates the ethos of the *New Beginnings* exhibition. Created in multi-hued neon, their message is both personal and universal.

Soo Kim's *Superheavies* series includes photo-based portraits of a woman in repose interspersed with images of reflection and light from the Wayfarers Chapel in Palos Verdes, CA, a glass church designed by Lloyd Wright.

Jon Sasaki's performance *I Promise it Will Always Be This Way*, consisting of 26 costumed team mascots, was a high point in this year's *Nuit Blanche*. *New Beginnings* includes amongst other things, a single-channel video of a simpler, but equally unpredictable performance involving the containment of fireworks.

Claude Zervas' 'boxes of light' channel Joseph Cornell in a roundabout way, as they examine the mechanics of perception and entoptic phenomenon (visual effects whose source is within the eye itself). Not to mention that their warm glow feels extremely edifying during these dark winter months.

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