

MUSEOLOGY TRIPTYCHS BY PHOTOGRAPHER RICHARD ROSS AT MIT

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Santa Barbara-based photographer Richard Ross has spent 12 years prowling through history, science and art museum exhibition and storage spaces, documenting arresting objects and juxtapositions. The most recent "museology" work involves large triptychs (four by twelve feet) in which mysterious and suggestive details from old master paintings, shot with a simple, plastic, child's camera, are cropped, rescaled and rearranged into what one critic has called "a dumb show of oblique gestures" or, in the words of the artist, "a soap opera of art history". Ross's unsettling tripartite narrative sequences are murky and evocative; their fragmentary images are both familiar and elusive, like dream debris which continues to nudge one's subconscious even after the dream has vanished. The photographs' dark and smoldering drama recalls some of the conventions of earlier Romantic painting, while their deft quoting and reassembling from disparate historical moments and geographic locations is entirely contemporary, as is their elegant, enigmatic sensuality.

The artist will present his work from recording the plaster statuary in Caesar's Palace, Las Vegas, through taxidermed specimens and out-of-favor casts in museum basements to the recent triptychs, in a slide talk in the List Visual Arts Center's Bartos Theater (Wiesner Building, lower level) on Sunday, November 12 at 3 pm.

Admission to List Visual Art Center galleries and events is free and open to the public.

Hours: Weekdays noon to 6 pm; weekends 1 to 5 pm. Closed holidays.

MIT List Visual Arts Center  
Wiesner Building, 20 Ames Street, Cambridge. Telephone (617)  
253-4680

Five minutes from Kendall Square Red Line subway stop. Parking available at corner of Main and Ames Streets.