



Seattle University
 Fine Arts Department
 Lee Center for the Arts
 Hedreen Gallery

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 Kill Date: May 24, 2007

EXHIBIT: Intimate Human
ARTIST: Mel Erice & Jon Huck
MEDIUM: Photography
OPENING: Thursday March 29th 5-8pm
RUN OF SHOW: March 29 – May 24, 2007

GALLERY HOURS: Tuesday – Saturday 1:30-6:00pm
ADMISSION: open to the public, always free
LOCATION: Seattle University Lee Center for the Arts
 901 12th Avenue (at 12th & Marion)
FOR MORE INFO CALL: 206.296.2244

Seattle - Portraiture sets up expectations: we will see the sitter; we will learn something of their character. *Intimate Human*, the first exhibition of portrait photography at the Lee Center for the Arts, challenges these expectations and asks us to consider the criteria by which we assess 'individuality.' In two extensive portrait series, photographers Mel Erice and Jon Huck distill universally intimate details as signifiers of their subjects' personalities.

In Erice's *For Your Scrutiny*, topless women and bottomless men hold chalkboards over their chests or crotches. Though the faces are cropped out of these black-and-white images, Erice's photographs powerfully emphasize the individuality of the subject: on each chalkboard, the sitter has written her breast size, or his penis length. Our desire to read character in the chalked handwriting, along with Erice's references to documentary photography, implicates us as viewers in complicated ways. Does a heavily chalked line indicate confidence? Have the subjects told the truth? What exactly are we staring at?

Huck also dares us to create narratives, and to discern persona through unconventional associations. In selections from *Breakfast* (a series that in its entirety comprises over 100 images), Huck juxtaposes traditional 'head shots' with portraits of his subjects' breakfasts. Some pairings are visually playful – a baldhead echoed by boiled eggs, for example; others suggest cultural or gendered stereotypes, as the waiflike woman with two cups of black coffee.



Photo by Jon Huck, from *Breakfast*

Although each model in *Intimate Human* is vivid and unique, each is also part of a series, whose formal parameters are repeated across the gallery's space. This iteration makes *commonality* the exhibition's subtext: differences become ordinary, constant, and intimately human.

Mel Erice comes from Seattle via North Shore, Hawaii and she never gives out her full name on first introduction. Though a multi-disciplinary artist, Erice's main interests lie in illustration, graphic design, and photography.

Jon Huck is a native of Los Angeles, California. Primarily a sound artist, he is frequently distracted by obsessive photo projects that he sees more as sociological surveys than art pieces. He is currently hard at work on a photo essay about the arbitrary nature of romantic relationships.

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Hedreen Gallery Mission:

The Hedreen Gallery at the Lee Center for the Arts is dedicated to the vibrancy of Seattle's artistic community. Our mission is to support the work of emerging artists and exhibit new work by established artists: local, national, international. We strive to catalyze artistic process and dialogue: to connect artists, audiences, and resources: and to engage the community in the arts.

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