

TIMOTHY JOHN BERG

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ARTIST STATEMENT

My work originates with commonplace perceptions. I attempt to distill the stereotypical views people have of nature into humorous visual allusions. My intention is not to make didactic statements but rather to pose, in an accessible way, fundamental questions that address how and where human artifice influences and affects our understanding and interaction with the environment.

Humankind purports to appreciate nature but in reality we regard nature as scenery/prop, something to be admired as monumental, sacred and sublime or exploited for leisure or recreation. As a consequence we frame nature allowing us to enjoy it while firmly demonstrating our separateness and supremacy. Through the creation of compelling sculpture and installations I wish to expose the ways in which we project our concepts, beliefs and predicaments onto the environments in which we live, work and play.

I employ satire to simultaneously disarm the viewer and challenge them to evaluate the larger implications of our cultures relationship to nature. This creates a tension between what is fun and what is grave. This tension is intensified by my utilization of obsolete ceramic kitsch, cheap consumer goods and low-tech kinetic, projection or motion activated gadgetry.