

Vergani, Orio.

Review. "Big Brother and Art:
Reconciling Two Different Worlds."

Translated by Jamie Richards

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Big Brother and Art: Reconciling Two Different Worlds

WITHOUT QUITE KNOWING WHY, one of today's big tendencies is to record, perhaps as a throwback to surveillance society. This new way of describing our world has become well-established over the last few years, but its origins stretch far back, as a transformation that started with the industrial revolution and was the result of an inevitable need for surveillance in societies that were no longer exclusively agricultural and thus faster, more dynamic to change and exchange information. Art can often be a synthesis that expresses the present better than a thousand words, which is why I consider Christopher Michlig's exhibit unmissable, with its (very timely) title "Processed World," a marvelous, hallucinatory trip through the more or less iconic memories of today's 40-somethings. Surveillance society is presented as a product of the definitions and hyper-definitions of our social universe (i.e., labels like "global village," "neo-capitalism," "technological revolution"). "Processing" this narrative world seems necessary for Michlig, temporarily pushing him away from the abstract. A long series of prints in which black and white silkscreens blend together, break apart, against backgrounds colored like neon rainbows, they constitute a sampling of the matrices on which the contemporary world has been generated. The gigantic, almost primitive cellular phone, the Walkman, the severe architecture, the postmodern, kids from the 70s, the end of percussion music post-Nirvana—all this is narrated, deconstructed, "processed," as it were. For the viewer, this iconic language thus generates a world that isn't difficult to perceive or understand yet still remains faithful to the original. In a reality where every piece of information exponentially overlaps with another, Michlig helps us, paradoxically, to rest our eyes and to slow the flow of history.

Christopher Michlig's "Processed World" runs through July 25 at the Galleria Giuseppe Pero on Via Porro Lambertenghi 3T.