

Picci, Barbara. Review.

“Milano, collage di Christopher Michlig.”

Translated by Jamie Richards

Solo Sapere.

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Milan: Christopher Michlig Collages at the Galleria Pero through July 25

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Barbara Picci

At Milan's Galleria Giuseppe Pero, the exhibition "Processed World," by California artist Christopher Michlig, is on view through July 25. The show's theme is communication, and the artist, armed with his poignant **collages**, wants to emphasize the way that information in the contemporary world is fast, easily accessible, often unverified, and obsessively shared. In this frenetic cycle, an original message is distorted once it reaches its final recipient, losing the very point of communication.

Michlig represents this concept with **postmodern structures and objects from technology's past** that symbolize its birth. We have pay phones, cellular phones, radios in relief against various types of stratified backgrounds. The black and white silkscreens contrast with their florescent backgrounds, calling to mind Californian billboards.

His technique is quite similar to that of the levels tool in the well-known graphics editing program **Photoshop**. This is Michlig's second solo exhibition, yet unlike the first in which abstraction ruled (as in the artist's earlier works), now his mode of expression is entirely figurative. He produces compositions that are contradictory and complex in order to represent bold concepts with figurative language. The sense one gets from the whole is that **the paradox of contemporary communication,** as Michlig demonstrates, **pushes us into a virtually inescapable system,** which draws us into communication which is false, or at any rate, **warped by its very nature.**

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