

HUFFPOST ARTS

Haiku Reviews

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PHOTO: JOSH AZZARELLA, *Untitled #27 (Unknown Rebel)*, 2006, Video, 1 minute 11 seconds

WHAT: Mark Moore Gallery
5790 Washington Blvd., Culver City, CA
Through May 14

HAIKU: Josh Azzarella's formula is simple but effective: remove a key element from a historically or socially loaded image and see what happens to the image - and to our responses to it. Actually, the creepy effectiveness of Azzarella's strategy, throwing us back on our memory, rests not in the gimmick itself but in the decisions he makes: what images to alter, and what to remove. A stone bench sits in the dark where before a lynch mob raged. Lynndie Whatsername, the pixie of Abu Ghraib, cavorts alone. Students anxiously orbit an empty sidewalk at Kent State. The Hindenburg's maiden voyage now has the blimp itself removed. Azzarella's time-based pieces are even more ominous; a three-screen projection surrounds us with King Kongless jungle, but nothing is as peculiar as the guy standing in the middle of an empty street doing a funny kind of dance - the Chinese tanks now erased from the confrontation. - Peter Frank