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The Boston Globe

Exhibit offers fresh bite of forbidden fruit



"McIntosh" by Triiibe. (Triiibe)

By Cate McQuaid
Globe Correspondent / December 1, 2010

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The apple is an age-old reference to the biblical tree of knowledge. It's also the logo for a powerhouse computer and consumer electronics company, and there are scores of other associations with the fruit.

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The show comes in two parts. First, several photographic triptychs have been set up behind opened black curtains in the gallery's generous windows. They are trademark Triiibe images: The Casilios appear in richly designed narratives as different characters with identical faces, a conceit that tickles and prods our perceptions and beliefs about personal identity.

In this case, the triptychs are set up as altarpieces. With their bright tones and peaked frames, they make the gallery's windows look almost like stained glass. Each piece is titled with the name of an apple. "McIntosh" marries the tree of knowledge motif with the digital age reference: The women, wrapped in computer cables, form an apple tree.

"Royal Gala" reprises van Gogh's "The Potato Eaters," with the Casilios in rough work clothes gathered around a table, eating fries out of fast food containers.

I visited the gallery on a day when the second component was not up and running: Triiibe is attempting to create a public living room. The floor is scattered with low wooden tables and places to sit. Visitors can lounge, chat, and munch on apples as the triplets paint the interior of a room constructed within the gallery.

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