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EXPERIENCE

IN SEARCH OF EDEN: A WORK IN PROGRESS BY TRIIBE

Posted on December 13, 2010 by Ami Bennitt [Email](#)



TRIIBE, the creative collective, has opened **In Search of Eden: A Work in Progress** at Boston University's 808 Gallery. It's a continuation and progression of their solo exhibition at Gallery Kayafas this past spring, and features the Casilio triplets in a variety of settings, in large-scale, triptych form. That in and of itself is a sight: adult triplet women, in 10-foot photographic images, each it's own theatrical episode. Hugged by velvet curtains, these images appear almost side-show-esque, so unique, borderline bizarre, along Commonwealth Avenue in huge windows for all the world to see.

"This installation," explains Alicia Casilio, "involves photography, painting, sculpture, design, architecture, performance, film, and music. It explores identity and the difference between our perceived exterior and our interior selves." According to Casilio, although based in photographs, *In Search of Eden* is about performance within and the installation around the images.

"We began this project with the site as inspiration. The gallery is an old Cadillac dealership with large store-front windows with a strange grandeur or a religious space. We saw this opportunity to use the visual language of these elements to draw connections between consumerism and religion. This setting is unique as it challenges us to think about performance over an extended period of time. We consider everyday life as a performance."

The fantastical photographs represent the struggle for "something that is unattainable." They include seven triptych images, each featuring the triplets (and apples). For example, "McIntosh" pictures the sisters tied to their "tree of knowledge" bound by internet wire. "As part of the tree," Kelly explains, "we also feed off the fruit we create. The internet cable illustrates how we are connected through technology; this is also why we chose the McIntosh apple for this piece. The apple (exterior) represents our desires, assigning each apple to a modern desire."

Eden becomes a vacation destination — desire for things, beauty, belonging, money, sex, and information.

Other images are titled Fuji, Golden Delicious, Granny Smith, Pink Lady, Red Delicious, and Royal Gala. They picture the triplets sometimes in 50s swimsuits with cocktails; as 70s pimps; contorted in bright red shiny rubber bodysuits; in elaborate pink corseted bodices; and in homeless garb. Usually it takes a month to create each image — from props, setting, background, wardrobe, make-up, and lighting. For **In Search of Eden**, they, with their largest team ever, created all 7 in two months. "It was insane. The lighting alone takes days for each piece. As we build sets, we also pre-light," explains Kelly.

As a work in progress, new elements have developed over time. "808 is part of the BU campus, at a major intersection. It gets lots of repeat traffic. Different aspects of the exhibition have been unveiled, the project changes all the time, as we all are—always changing."

The installation includes unexpected seating areas, which at first seem pristine—as if to NOT sit there. Then, people do, and at the opening reception, many gathered eating candy apples, tea, and other snacks while they discussed the exhibition. "The seating areas are a bridge between sculpture, design, interactive installation and a living room—it defies definition," remarks Alicia.

"We want people to come in, sit down, eat apples, drink tea, and talk. It's actually led to some potential collaborations, already!"

Further, yet to unveil, TRIIBE is developing a room "our own 'church,' our own belief system," says Kelly. "We have a strong belief that things are never what they seem. We look identical, but we are very different. The room (808 Gallery) looks rectangular, but feels round when standing in this room. It's a room that's always changing, as we change over time. The colors are very subtle from one to the next. At first glance they appear identical, but if you look closer ... they are very different."

TRIIBE began in 2006, primarily as triplet artists Alicia, Kelly and Sara Casilio and photographer Cary Wolinsky—to create political and social commentary art. However,

the team for **In Search of Eden** has grown considerably, and includes Sheryl Handler, Marie Brown (theatre director), Nick Doriss (sculptor), Alison Heryer (costume designer), Babs Wolinsky (graphic designer), Lauren Sanders (designer), Yari Wolinsky (film maker), Rick Kyle (photo re-toucher), Alessandra Mondolfi and Matt Murphy (fabricators), Jason Allen and Beauty Thibodeau (hair and make-up designers), Matt Guminski (lighting designer), Phred Churchill (film maker), Brad Larkin (artist), and a handful of printers including Gus Kayafas, Brandon James, Jordan Kessler, Devin Feil, Eunjoo Lee and Sam Walker.

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FOTOBOM: ELI "PAPERBOY" REED AND SPIRIT KID AT THE MIDDLE EAST, 1.14.11
Between Spirit Kid's uninhibited exuberance and the sky-high range of Eli "Paperboy" Reed, our ears were ringing (in a good way!) after their set Downstairs at the Middle East last night. I hung out behind the horn section (and I think I'm partially death as a result), ...

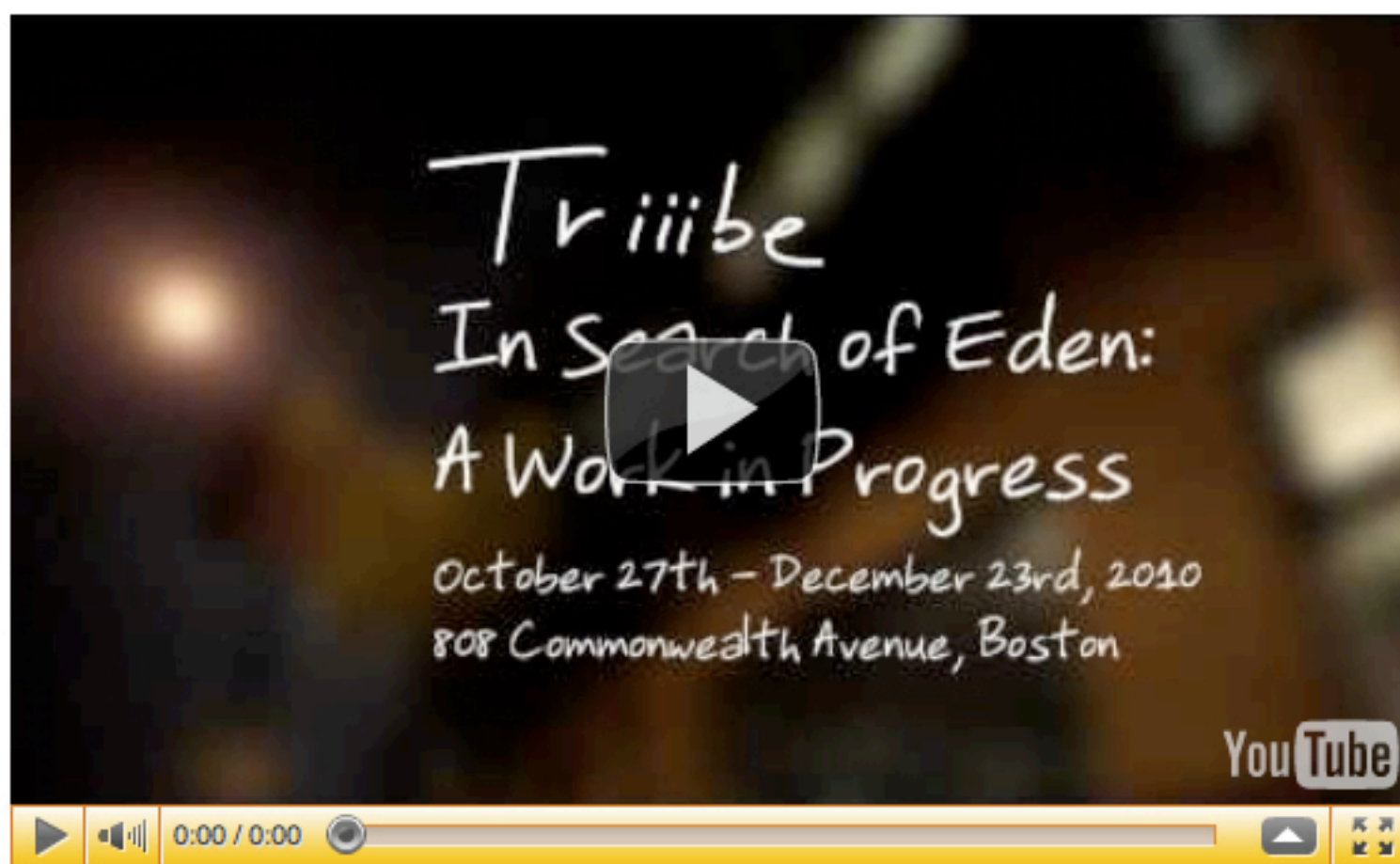
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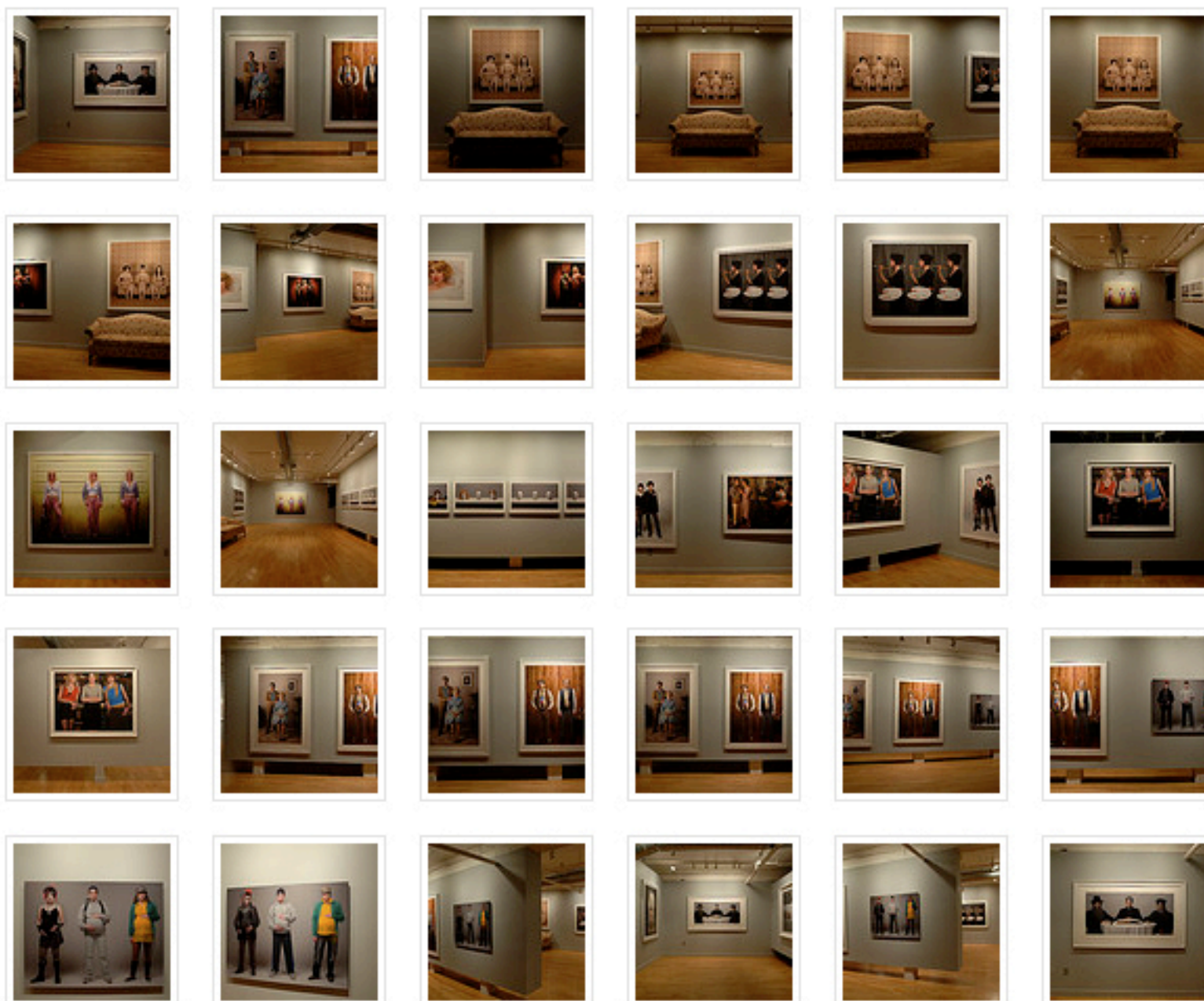
The TRIIIBE triplets also create art outside the collective. Sara works mainly in drawing and painting. Alicia and Kelly have practiced glass-blowing together. Kelly also makes functional ceramic works.

In the new year, TRIIIBE will present a solo exhibition at Dodge Gallery in New York featuring photographs from their exhibition at Gallery Kayafas and this exhibition. Keep track of their upcoming public, online and other haps on their [Facebook page](#).



TRIIIBE at Gallery Kayafas April 16-May 29, 2010

An online gallery of a previous exhibition:



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IN SEARCH OF EDEN: A WORK IN PROGRESS

THROUGH DECEMBER 23, 2010

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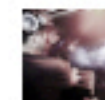
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Not sure what to do tonight? We have eight options in our event calendar at <http://digboston.com> All are pretty choice!

RT @mikebasu: Shots from last night's @elipaperboyreed show w/ spiritkid @MidEastClub <http://goo.gl/aDI63>

Also we lost a great one today. Trish Kennan of #Broadcast @warprecords YouTube playlist here: <http://youtu.be/c5ZJ-N750Bk> RIP