

## *Consumption*

Juried by Brian Paul Clamp

---

Consumption is a complicated word with a myriad of meanings and usages. This complexity was fully reflected by the diverse range of work submitted for consideration for this group show.

Interestingly, the majority of the photographs I reviewed addressed consumption in terms of commodity culture and our society's particular and alarming acquisitiveness. Compelling images of McMansions and Best Buy storefronts (by Ryan Boatright and Lynley Bernstein respectively, for example) reflect our nation's propensity for all that is bigger and ostensibly better!

However, a good deal of the entries addressed the basic, biological, human need to consume in order to survive. Images of food were abundant, particularly those depicting questionable edibles—those with little to no nutritional value—thus commenting upon the meaninglessness and futility of our unabashed gluttony. Much of the work in this vein is satiric and/or grotesque, further driving the point home, such as Carlo Zinzi's wonderfully absurd hot dog rocket, Jessica Hilvitz's wholly unappetizing TV dinners, and Jon Feinstein's nauseating images of what lurks beneath our hamburger buns.

Photographs addressing man's consumption of energy and the earth's natural resources also reoccurred with some regularity, signaling a common awareness and concern for the consequences of our unbounded appetites. Brook Reynolds' sober image of an abandoned gas station attests to "the unavoidable end to our consumption of fossil fuels."

An array of other interpretations of the theme also made their way into my final selection, including Jesus Jimenez's visual articulation of the consumption of 621 calories by means of documenting the physical trace of his running in a circle on a patch of grass (intelligently referencing photography's role as an indexical medium), and Ruth Adams' startling and powerful chronicle of her battle with the consuming illness of cancer.

I very much benefited from seeing a vast range of powerful and distinct photography, and I wish to thank all of the artists who submitted work for my review. It is your vision, creativity, and passion which I benefit from consuming everyday.