

Mike Sinclair *City Beautiful*

March 27 - May 16, 2009
opening reception
Friday, March 27 from 5 to 10 pm

Wading Pool, The Grove
2009
chromogenic print
20 x 24 inches



Dolphin is pleased to present :

Michael Sinclair has spent many years exploring middle-class America at play and leisure. In this new series of work entitled “City Beautiful” Sinclair pays tribute to city parks as they define the persona of a region, reacquainting us with what sometimes feels to be abandoned or forsaken places of solace. Curator Hesse McGraw writes, “Kansas City’s parks fill a huge gap between accident and intention — forming the city’s center, void, mysterious plateau and its new normal. These parks wear the pain and joy of the city, its confusion and distress. They come together as much as fall apart, in both senses present. Interlocking questions swirl about these places — of maintenance, function, community, beauty, income and race. But more pointedly, what is the role of the park in the life of the city? These ponderous, softened places that conceal death and celebrate life are forgotten only to be verdantly reborn, remembered and loved for their tiniest details or landmark trees, They are in the game and out of the way, there if we need them and never mind if we don’t, it will all grow back next year anyways.”

Sinclair’s work is included in such collections as the Nelson Atkins Museum of Art, The Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art, the Nerman Museum of Art, The Fine Arts Museum, Houston and the Museum of Contemporary Photography Chicago.

Stuart Allen is a visual artist whose work deals with fundamental elements of perception such as light, time, gravity and space. His photographs, sculpture and installation have been shown throughout the U.S. and abroad and his work is found in many private and public collections. The work in this exhibition represents an altogether different form of editing, one that has occurred within the myriad colors and patterns that define a single photograph. Aside from a dramatic increase in scale, the pixels have not been modified or re-arranged. They are color studies mined from the internal structure of the source photo. Their original function – the depiction of a particular coastal view, on a particular day in Baja – is essentially lost. Collectively, they tell something of the scene; but it is a decidedly abstracted version of the original – offering a sense of place rather than a concrete description.

Allen studied architecture at Kansas University and graduated from the photography and video department of the Kansas City Art Institute in 1993. He lives in San Antonio, Texas with his wife Kelly Lyons, their daughter Aidan and son Vincent.