

## ***This Was Funny Yesterday***



John Divola, "As Far as I Could Get," Image courtesy of the artist

**CCS Gallery  
Building 494  
UC Santa Barbara**

**September 27 — October 19, 2012**

Open 1 — 5 PM, Tuesday through Friday,  
and by appointment: Jane Mulfinger 805-705-  
0913

**Opening reception Thursday, October 4, from  
6:30 — 7:30 PM**, following a 1C Colloquium  
presentation with Jane Mulfinger and Stephanie  
Washburn, from 5 – 6:30 PM, at Embarcadero  
Hall

The use of humor in art production is a fairly recent and often oddly overlooked development. ***This Was Funny Yesterday*** begins with a look at the use of humor in classic conceptual art and extends to a broad array of more recent practice. Including ***Vito Acconci, Brian Bress, John Divola, Martin Kersels, Allison Miller, Camilo Ontiveros, Stephanie Washburn, and the collective D3***, this exhibition explores a kind of humor found nestled at the unlikely intersection of the physical world and abstract thought. With references to slapstick and gallows humor, the body collapses in the quiet entropy of a picture plane. Distinctions between media, self and other, presence and absence, all tend to fall apart. A comradeship of base materialism or an esthetics of failure vies with the archival impulse. Together, this diverse work helps define a sensibility distinct from the ironies of postmodernism. Begging empathy more than ridicule, its laughter teases us to a more acute sense of our limitations, interconnectedness, and finally solidarity.

We will also be curating a one week response exhibition to be held from October 24 — 31. Artists are invited to submit related work to [washburnsp@gmail.com](mailto:washburnsp@gmail.com) by October 15. Address the subject line as follows: CCS Submission. Include at least one image, title and description of the work, and display or installation requirements. Please also offer a suggestion for the title of the show itself.

This exhibition was curated by Jane Mulfinger and Stephanie Washburn and made possible with the support of ***The Interdisciplinary Humanities Center, The College of Creative Studies, and The Department of Art at UC Santa Barbara.***