

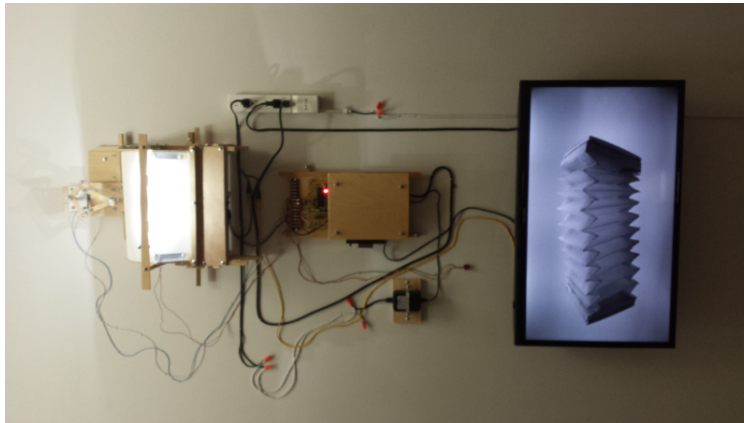
## ARTSTROLLER

An art blog by Casey Gregory

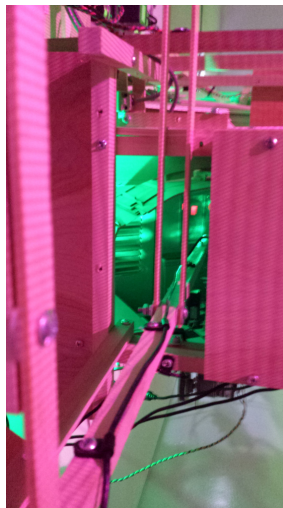
### GHOSTS IN MACHINES

February 2014

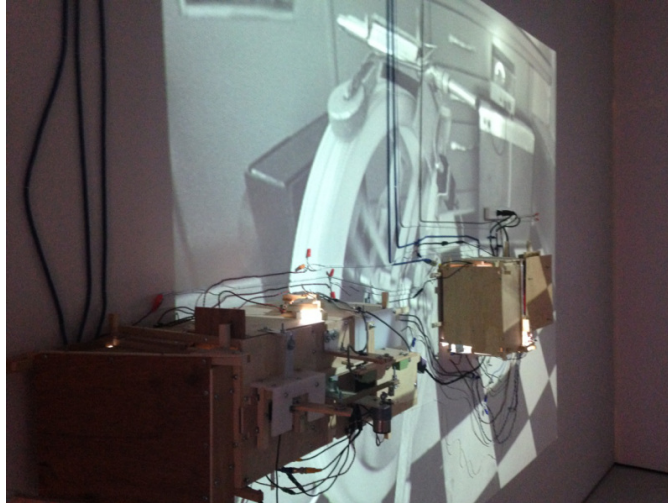
I will admit that sometimes I like art to be a little fear-inducing... just in that Wunderkammer kind of way, all dimly lit and slightly suspect. There is just something thrilling about subverting the traditional white gallery space, which can be a sort of uber-academic, supposedly neutral box-in-which-art-goes. Jeff Shore and John Fisher's *Trailer*, now on view at McClain Gallery is just this sort of wrench in the gears, so to speak. And is there any more elegantly polished white box than this one?



Pressing a single square red button triggers a performance from the complicated wooden and wire structures on the walls. The uncomfortably loud percussion, which begins Shore and Fisher's multimedia installation, widens our eyes with anticipation. Clementine is unnerved, frightened even. I hold her as we watch the dreamlike narrative unfold. By the end she is bobbing her head in time with the strange music.



Black-and-white vignettes appear in one projected screen on the wall. A mechanical tulip blooms, a telephone self-dials, a drum beats, player unseen. The distinctive sounds invite further inspection. Through tiny gaps in the boxes, we are allowed mere glimpses of the miniature objects as they enact the haunting sequence. On the screen we see all, but the sculptures themselves offer a kind of reverse backstage pass- all we see is the mechanism.



Therein lies the fascination. Shore and Fisher's installation gives us all of the "how it's done" right from the outset, and yet somehow manage to increase the mystery, trepidation and wonder in doing so.



<http://artstrollertx.com/2014/02/12/ghosts-in-machines/>