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Jeff Shore and Jon Fisher

By Emily Weiner



Photo courtesy of Clementine Gallery

Longtime Texas buddies Jeff Shore (a visual artist) and Jon Fisher (a computer programmer–composer) formed a creative duo in 2002, and have worked together quite harmoniously since. Their knack for collaboration becomes evident in *Reel to Reel*, an installation of electrokinetic wall works that, while aesthetically bland as individual sculptures, synch together seamlessly to create a poetic ten-minute movie.

Upon entering the darkened gallery, the viewer encounters seven wall-mounted machines (fashioned from wood, wires, motors and mechanical gizmos), which take turns moving in short, shuddering spurts. A video projection commands primary attention: After a moment, it becomes apparent that the film's footage and soundtrack are being produced in real time by these devices. When, for example, a sunrise appears over a verdant landscape onscreen, it's really a tiny spotlight on the other side of the room panning across a sculpture's semitransparent plastic side; inside, a tiny surveillance camera captures the motion of the light behind a set of miniature trees to simulate daybreak. In another scene, the camera zooms in on a rotating reel-to-reel tape player—the

result, once again, of a sculptural contraption (this time furnished with a dollhouse-like interior) springing into action.

The fact that these cinematic effects start to unravel as the viewer glances at the sculptures only enhances the surreal narrative onscreen. With such Rube Goldberg–esque tricks up their sleeves, Shore and Fisher don't need CGI to enthrall audiences.

Clementine Gallery, through Oct 6