

The Philadelphia Inquirer

Friday, May 20, 2005 — exhibition review by Edward J. Sozanski

Return to video

After making his name as a pioneer of video art, Peter Campus segued into still photography for a number of years. Recently he returned to video; it is recent work in this medium that constitutes his exhibition at the Locks Gallery.

The eight short video loops are projected, in relatively small scale, as well as shown on monitors. Some include ambient sounds recorded at outdoor locations, mainly the seashore.



still from *baruch the blessed*, 2004, digital video

However, the primary impact of these pieces is visual. At first, the subjects seem banal - a young boy playing at water's edge, a hummingbird at a feeder, waves washing over a breakwater. Campus goes so far as to offer his audience the ultimate marine cliché, a soaring tern isolated against a cobalt sky.

Individually, the pieces hardly make the earth move, but collectively they become a mosaic of pleasant and soothing memory fragments. They re-create not only common experience, but also moments of joyful delight in the ordinary rhythms of daily life.

One piece even suggests a bit of mystery. A man walks along a road carrying a blue bag. Observed from above, his progress appears slightly awkward. Campus then cuts to an image of a house and an iris blossom. A bell rings. Nothing much has happened, there's no denouement, and yet one feels that this montage depicts an event of some significance.

Locks Gallery, 600 Washington Square South. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesdays through Saturdays. Through June 23. 215-629-1000 or www.locksgallery.com.