

# SHAHEEN

modern and  
contemporary art

## Bruce Checefsky *Gardens*

September 20<sup>th</sup> – November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2008

**SHAHEEN modern and contemporary art is pleased to announce an exhibition of new photographic works by Cleveland-based artist Bruce Checefsky.**

Checefsky's most recent body of work is both informed by and inclusive of his career-long exploration into camera-less photography, and his more recent experiences as a filmmaker. To create the series of photographic images that he has titled *Gardens*, Checefsky employed a flatbed scanner in lieu of a traditional camera, and the fundamental materials and tools by which he realizes his black-and-white photograms. Powered by a series of extension cords, the repurposed scanner (stripped of its cover and glass) relocates the artist's darkroom and studio to his garden. Taking a cue from Checefsky's film work, the horizontal exposure of the scanner suggests the pan of a film or video camera as it captures its surroundings from a continuously shifting vantage point. While – technically speaking – the photographic or "photo-scanning" process involves no true depth of field, the images that it yields possess both extreme flatness and great depth. As the scanner surveys its surroundings, it occasionally grabs the nearby foliage, creating chance visual occurrences that register themselves as obscure blurs, neon flares of color or vertical breaks in the resulting image. Ultimately, the confluence of Checefsky's sophisticated yet elemental photographic sensibility and his control / loss-of-control encounter with technology allows him to transform an urban garden into lush, vibrantly colored and nether-worldly landscapes. Rich, gorgeous and often eerie, the photographs that comprise *Gardens* beg as many photographic questions as they answer.

A native of Pennsylvania and long-time Cleveland resident, Checefsky received his MFA in Photography from Cranbrook Academy of Art. As a filmmaker, photographer, curator and gallery director, he has a lengthy and impressive career track record. His photograms, photographs and films have been exhibited and screened at such venues as Museum of Modern Art, NY; Museum of Modern Art, Saitama, Japan; Cranbrook Museum of Art; Berkeley Art Museum & Pacific Film Archive; Tel Aviv Biennial, Israel; Location One, New York; Wexner Center for the Arts, Columbus, Ohio; Museum of Contemporary Art, Cleveland, Ohio; Museum der Moderne, Salzburg, Austria; ZKM Museum Fur Neue Kunst, Germany; International Film Festival Rotterdam; Toronto International Film Festival; CSW| Centrum Sztuki Współczesnej Zamek Ujazdowski, Warsaw, Poland; Los Angeles County Museum of Art, CA; Leopold Museum, Vienna, Austria; Cleveland International Film Festival, and more. Checefsky's films and photographs are held in many permanent collections, including the Museum of Modern Art, New York; Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; Minneapolis Institute of Art, MN; Brooklyn Museum of Art, NY; Cleveland Museum of Art, OH; The Getty Research Institute, CA; Museum of Modern Art, Japan; The Jane Voorhees Zimmerli Art Museum, NJ; Museum of Photographic Arts, San Diego, CA; British Film and Video Collection, London, and others.

**During the exhibition, SHAHEEN modern and contemporary art is open Thursday & Friday, 11 a.m. – 6 p.m., Saturday 12 p.m. – 4 p.m. and by appointment.**

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