

In Situ assignment
Steve Daniels
Cristal Sung
Nov. 3, 2010

David Hoffos: *Scenes from the House Dream*

Scenes from the House Dream was an amazing installation, using reflection, lights, and dioramas to create a holographic representation. The display was engaging, mysterious, and unsettling.

Before we entered the space, there was a warning from the staff at the front desk that it would be very dark inside. I pushed through the curtains and stood in the blackness as I waited for my eyes to adjust. Nothing seemed to change. I immediately thought of *Screamers* and feared that somebody would jump out and scare me.

I shuffled to find the first piece, a zeppelin flying over the city. It looked like multiple screens overlaid. It was fascinating, but I quickly moved on. I was impressed by the second piece, *Circle Street*. The detailing of the house, the movement of people on the street, and fireworks in the sky, brought the diorama to life. A little bit of observation allowed me to notice that, what looked like a very long street, was in fact one house with mirrors on both sides.

I was impressed by David Hoffos use of reflections from strategically placed televisions and all the testing that needed to be done to produce such an installation. The thing that bothered me was that the pieces had to be seen from a certain angle and there was no indication as to where I was supposed to stand. The placement of the sound helped, but I had to be aware of where the television was and stand to the right angle of it.

Since it was also really dark, I was unsure where to go. I spotted a person in one of the corners, sitting at a table and I thought I might have disturbed them. It took me a while to realize that it was actually a projection piece, *Absinthe Bar*. Then when I saw another one, *Mary-Anne Waiting*, I was very uncomfortable by its ghostly presence and wanted to leave the dark space as quickly as possible.

Leaving the gallery made me realize that I needed to go see more installations and if it were not for the gallery assignment, I would have missed this incredible installation that is right in Toronto.