

Claudia Hart's Digital Delights



Claudia Hart, *Still Life With Fundayun*, 2011. Archival inkjet print on photo rag, print: 36 x 48" / 91.4 x 121.9 cm, framed: 42.75 x 53.25" / 108.6 x 135.3 cm, Edition of 3. Courtesy bitforms gallery nyc

With dreams of turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes, and vegetables floating in our heads, it's shocking to confront Claudia Hart's still life photos of chemically produced junk food mixed with digital simulations of apples—healthy food that goes back to the beginning of time, or at least metaphorically the Garden of Eden. The Chicago-based digital whiz references a Gertrude Stein poem in her show *When A Rose is Not a Rose* at New York's bitforms gallery and plays with the Modernist vision of the still life in clever ways in her new series of photographs.



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Claudia Hart, *RGB*, 2011. Archival inkjet print on photo rag, print: 36 x 48" / 91.4 x 121.9 cm, framed: 42.75 x 53.25" / 108.6 x 135.3 cm, Edition of 3, Photo: John Berens. Courtesy bitforms gallery nyc



Claudia Hart, *Elixir*, 2011. Archival inkjet print on photo rag, print: 36 x 48" / 91.4 x 121.9 cm, framed: 42.75 x 53.25" / 108.6 x 135.3 cm, Edition of 3. Courtesy bitforms gallery nyc

The Real and The Fake presents Cheetos, Pringles, slices of enriched white bread, bits of chemically produced breakfast cereal, artificially made drinks, and simulated fruit juxtaposed with the digital display of an apple, which serves as a poetic reference to a [Cezanne](#) still life. What's actually real is a frighteningly fake product and what's fake is a symbol of truth (as American as apple pie) and fortitude (an apple a day keeps the doctor away.)



Claudia Hart, *Food For Children*, 2011. Archival inkjet print on photo rag, print: 36 x 48" / 91.4 x 121.9 cm, framed: 42.75 x 53.25" / 108.6 x 135.3 cm, Edition of 3. Courtesy bitforms gallery nyc

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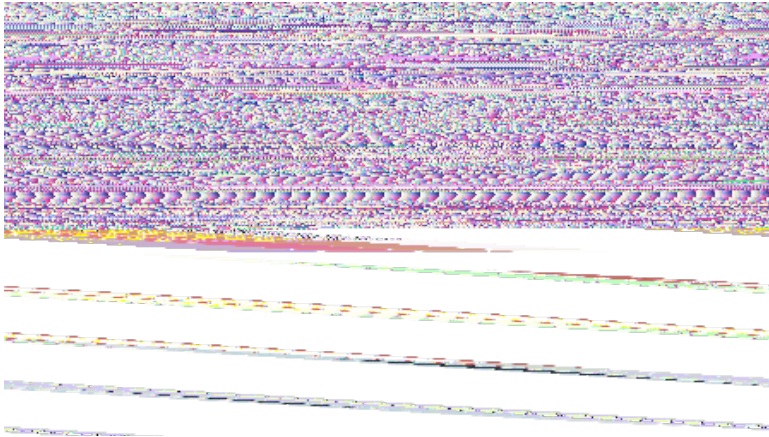
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Claudia Hart, *More Food For Children*, 2011. Archival inkjet print on photo rag, print: 36 x 48" / 91.4 x 121.9 cm, framed: 42.75 x 53.25" / 108.6 x 135.3 cm, Edition of 3. Courtesy bitforms gallery nyc

Not content to just create still images of the death of food via industrial production, Hart takes Steins theme of "A rose is a rose is a rose" further into the realm of *memento mori* with a video piece that presents a twisting female figure in a series of confining, coffin-like monitors that will kill any appetite. Pious in nature, the only way to escape this form of framed torture is to stop eating and squeeze out—but wait until after Thanksgiving!



"Caress" (2011) by Claudia Hart, video excerpt from bitforms gallery on Vimeo.

Claudia Hart: *When A Rose is Not a Rose* is on view at bitforms gallery nyc through December 3.

Posted on: November 22nd, 2011 by Paul Laster
Tags: bitforms gallery nyc, Claudia Hart



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