

Photographs 2013-2022
Clayton Campbell



PHOTOGRAPHS 2013-2022

This is the seventh volume of my collected works. It opens with a small series of self-portraits about aging. So many artists historically have approached self examination, and I wondered what I could bring to this genre that might be a bit different. *AGE IS M* is my response.

Following it is *Selling For Survival*, another small set of photographs that are a commentary on how artists find themselves becoming commodities, complicit in a market system in order to make a living, profits for someone else, so they can continue their practices.

This is followed by a much larger series, *Sex in CA, Parts 1-10*. In these photographs I have photographed soft porn images from mainstream prime time cable television programs on HBO TV. I corrupted the images (like in earlier series such as *Almost Abu Ghraib*) to see if I could transform the representational work in a something that was erotic, through suggestion and abstraction rather than blatant pornography.

This is followed by *To Buddha and Back*, a selection of 100's of iPhone photographs of flowers I've taken and processed. I posted them an Instagram account over the course of several years as a way of mediating some of the difficult emotions all of us were feeling at the time.

Next is *IKEA Parables*, an image and text production that tells stories about a possible future when our economy has been radically altered. There is a fair amount of humor in this series

Finally, the *Almost Arcadia* series re-contextualizes photographs of Hudson River Valley paintings to comment on climate change and the colonization of the United States.

Table of Contents

Page 2	AGE IS M
Page 16	Selling for Survival
Page 32	Sex In CA
Page 66	To Buddha and Back
Page 96	IKEA Parables
Page 116	Almost Arcadia



THE NEW WORLD, FROM ALMOST ARCADIA



SAGING

AGE

IS

M

Artists have always liked to take a look at themselves as they age. I am amazed at how morbid they can get, showing all the wrinkles and sags and depressive moods we can experience. On the other hand, it can be just grand, this aging process! I was reading an article in *The New Yorker* that stimulated this portfolio of self-portraits, and not the first I've done over the years. I've kept a pretty good record over the years of my body progressing through time. The gist of the article was an interview with a Millennial or Generation Y guy, about 22 years old, and a 45-year-old Generation X guy. Y was telling X that he was no longer capable of generating any new ideas for the Y generation, and had already aged out in terms of his effectiveness.

Throughout the article words and phrases I had never heard before (or for that matter the writer, Mr. Gen X hadn't either) came out of the mouth of Mr. Gen Y. *Idea Virus*, *Half Life of Knowledge*, *Gray Horde*- language Millennial's either used to describe Mr. X or worse, Baby Boomers like myself. I was known as *The Nearly Dead*! Accused of *Elderspeak*, something apparently worse than *Mansplaining*. OMG.....this was too much. There was, for the on-coming Generation Y tsunami, no room for me!

So I dressed up in an old silk suit I was married in 35 years before to prove it still fit, and had these photos taken of me with the written words pulled from *The New Yorker* article. They are out of the mouths of some Millennial's who have decided my wisdom, wit, and ability to laugh at myself is no longer distinctive but a disability from a mind that has withered with time and the onset of retrograde Luddite tendencies. This is another *Tale From the Downslope*, and I am having a great time telling it! But truthfully, my real hope lies in the Millennial generation, who for all their brashness, remind me so much of myself at that age. I love being *Nearly Dead*, what an invention! I believe I called my parents something much less prosaic. I trust my Millennial son and his friends, because they will save the world.

All photographs vary in size from 13" x 19" to 76" x 52"



**FILTER
BUBBLE**



IDEA VIRUS



OLDERS



ELDERING



DECLINE
IDEOLOGY



ELDERSPEAK



HALF LIFE OF
KNOWLEDGE



**STALE
DEGREE**



THE NEARLY
DEAD



IDEOLOGY OF
SCARCITY





Selling For Survival

I was invited by a friend to attend the APAP Convention at the Hilton Hotel in New York City. It stands for The Association of Performing Arts Professionals, the national service, advocacy and membership organization for the live performing arts field.

It is the major annual marketplace for performance acts of all kinds to set up booths and sell themselves to talent agencies and booking agents. They come from around the United States to hire talent to fill in their schedules for their theaters, concert halls, musical theater restaurants, whatever they are operating. The variety of the acts boggled the mind, from high end opera, to sleight of hand magicians, look alike tribute bands, and performance artists who swallow fire. It was a convention, no different than Art Basel or any other fair or market where artists sell to survive.

This was the last day of the four day APAP convention, and many of the booths had already booked their schedules for the coming year and left. I was seeing those who had not, and were now down to the wire. They were selling themselves, bravely manning their booths filled posters, videos, promotional items, and of course, their smiling selves. I could feel the air of desperation, to leave without any bookings would be financial disaster. Like a ghostly phantom the specter of failure dogged each booth I stopped at, appearing like death in the corner of the room.

I spoke with everyone whom I photographed. They were all interested and dedicated. Everyone agreed to pose, and did so with enthusiasm. I honor them for their tenacity, belief in themselves, and willingness to put themselves on the line. This is what we do as artists, no matter what our practice is. We have all been in this position of selling for our survival. It sucks when it happens, but it isn't the point. We keep making our art no matter what.







with
ase,
at,
ories.”

my Tune

...sensation as one of Broadway's most
accomplished director choreographers.
Accompanied by Michael Ball, his
music director for nearly four decades,
the evening features some of the most
renowned standards by Irving Berlin,
Burt Bacharach, Cole Porter, Johnny Mercer,
King, Green Day and more.

For more show times at www.mysoundstage.com

Think icon.
ANNETTE Bening

Think legend.
TOMMY LEE

Think unexpected.
LUCY ARNETT

Think entertainment.
LUCY ARNETT

Think authentic.
TYNE DALY

Think original.
AMBER HEARD

Think sensation.
DONNA MURRAY

Think party.
LESLIE GORE

Think party.
LESLIE GORE

Think irresistible.
LESLIE GORE

Think timeless.
MAUREEN MCCOVY

Think champagne.
SILVIA MONTECALVO

Think unthinkably.
SILVIA MONTECALVO

Think dynamic.
SILVIA MONTECALVO

Think exciting.
SILVIA MONTECALVO









SFS #7



SFS #8



SFS #9



Julie Myers as 'NEARLY NICKS'

"...some kinda rock royalty rat pack"
- Rudy Mooney

"... Julie is a class act and her show is superb... Her rendition of the distinctive Nicks sound is stunn and her onstage presence is un in matching Nicks. She is seasoned professional onstage and of every aspect of her Nearly Nicks show sparkles with coordinated detail. This woman delivers on her promises of moving and accurate tributes to iconic art of our time."
- Dave Stubbs... Admitt...
PH: Entertainment Co



DREAMS - A Classic Rock Fantasy

starring Julie Myers
(World Class) Stevie Nicks Tribute Artist)

- Full Length Promo
- Behind the Scenes
- 120 Second Promo
- 90 Second Promo
- 60 Second Promo
- 30 Second Promo

www.nearlynicks.com
email: info@nearlynicks.com



SFS #11









SFS #15

Sex in California- Episodes 1-10

Pornography and eroticism both depict sexual activity and are intended to arouse the viewer. However, there are some key differences between the two.

Pornography is typically characterized by explicit, graphic sexual content that is intended to be sexually arousing. It often focuses on the physical aspects of sex and can be seen as objectifying or degrading to the people depicted in it. Pornography is often produced and consumed in a commodified manner, with the primary goal being to generate profits for those who produce and distribute it.

Eroticism, on the other hand, is more focused on the emotional and artistic aspects of sexual activity. While it may still contain explicit or graphic content, it is often presented in a more artistic or aesthetically pleasing manner. Eroticism is more concerned with creating an atmosphere of sensuality and intimacy, rather than simply depicting sexual acts for the purpose of arousing the viewer.

Overall, the main difference between pornography and eroticism is their intent and focus. Pornography is primarily concerned with arousing the viewer through explicit sexual content, while eroticism seeks to create a more sensual and intimate atmosphere through the depiction of sexual activity.

Soft pornography appeared on major cable TV states like HBO and Showtime in California around 2008 and increased in volume and accessibility throughout the next decade. The adult sex business became the largest economic engine in Los Angeles County, surpassing conventional movies and TV in the revenue generated. The overtness of what had been hidden and suppressed seemed sudden and became almost overwhelming. I wondered if the soft yet graphic content of soft porn media could be transformed into eroticism by manipulating images I was capturing from screen shots. Sex in California was an experiment in this vein.

A poem, generated by Artificial Intelligence- *Erotica*

Erotica, a realm of sensual delight, where bodies entwine and passion ignites.

A place of pleasure and intimate delight.

Where desires are explored and love takes flight.

In the world of erotica, all is fair, as lovers embrace and bodies bare their senses heightened, their passions flared.

In this realm, nothing is forbidden, no boundaries spared.

Erotica is a world of endless delight where lovers lose themselves in the heat of the night.

A place of intimacy and pure delight, where hearts and bodies come together in flight.

So let us embrace the world of erotica where love and desire know no drama, where pleasure reigns supreme and hearts are filled with cheer.

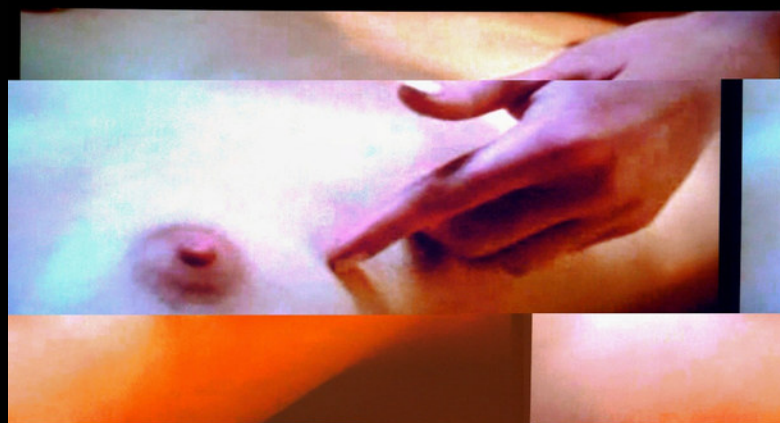
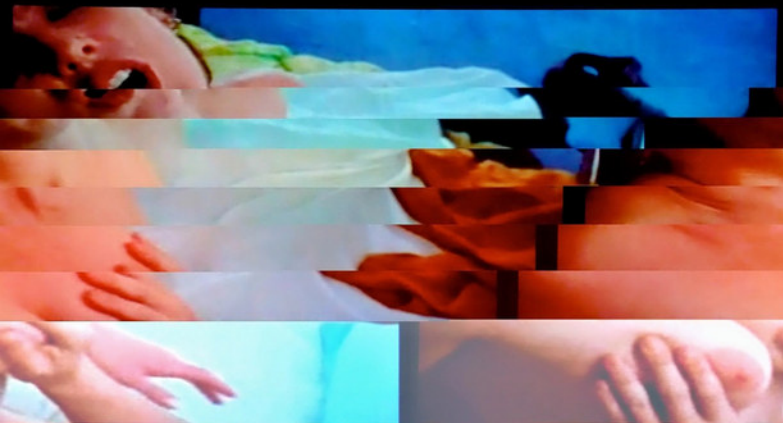
In this world, love knows no bounds, no limits, no fear.

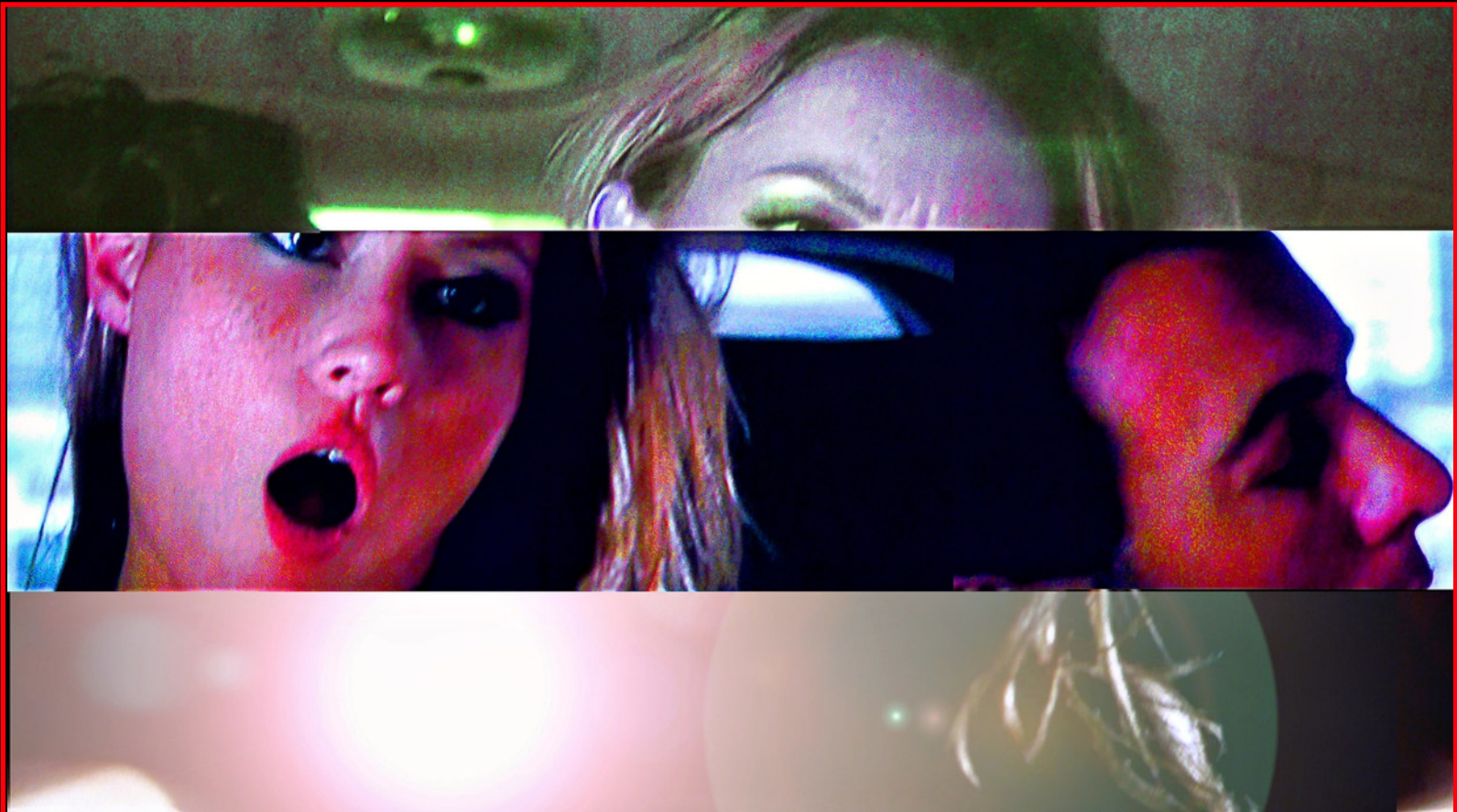
sex in california

episodes 1-10

still photos from episode 1











sex in california

episodes 1-10

still photos from episode 2





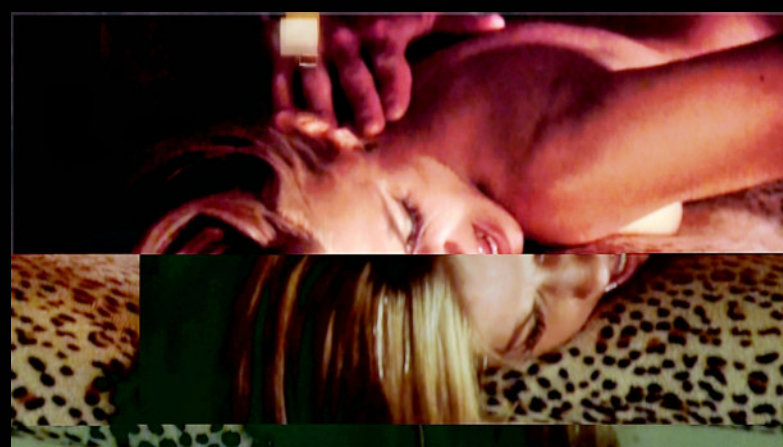
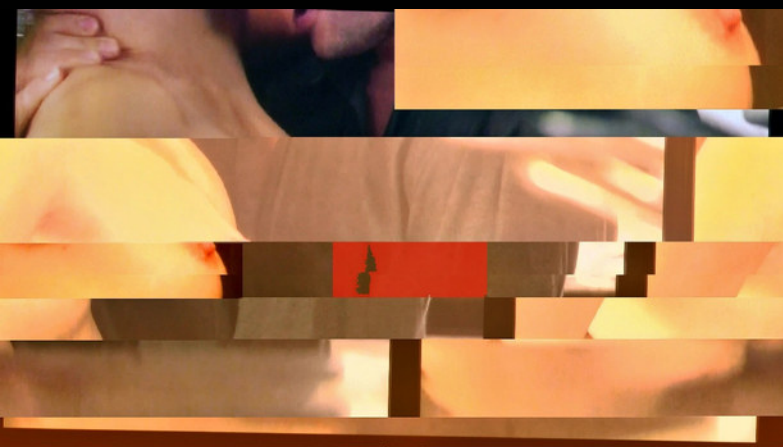
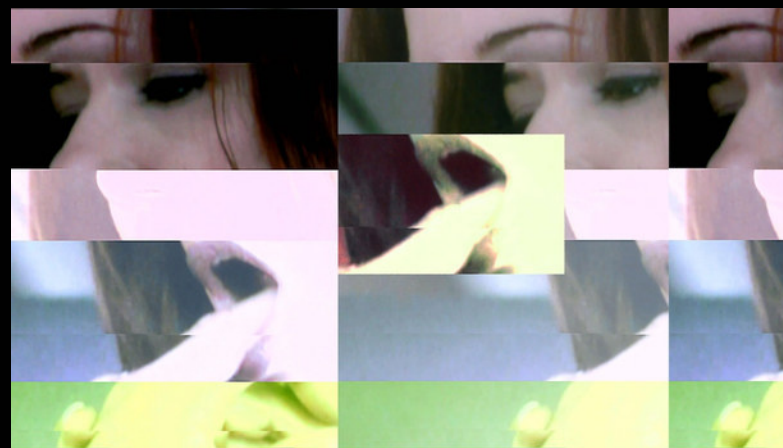


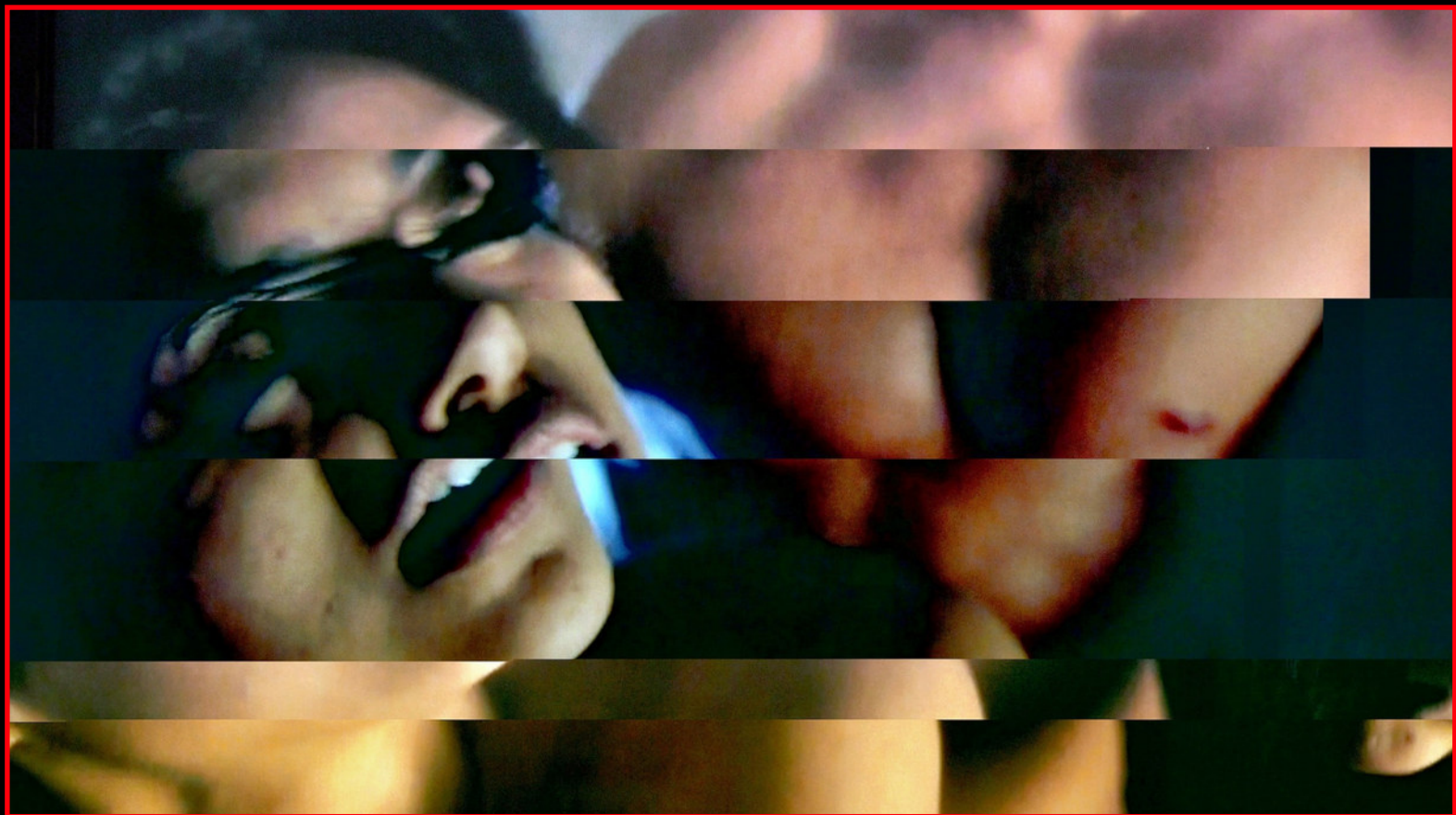
sex in california

episodes 1-10

still photos from episode 3



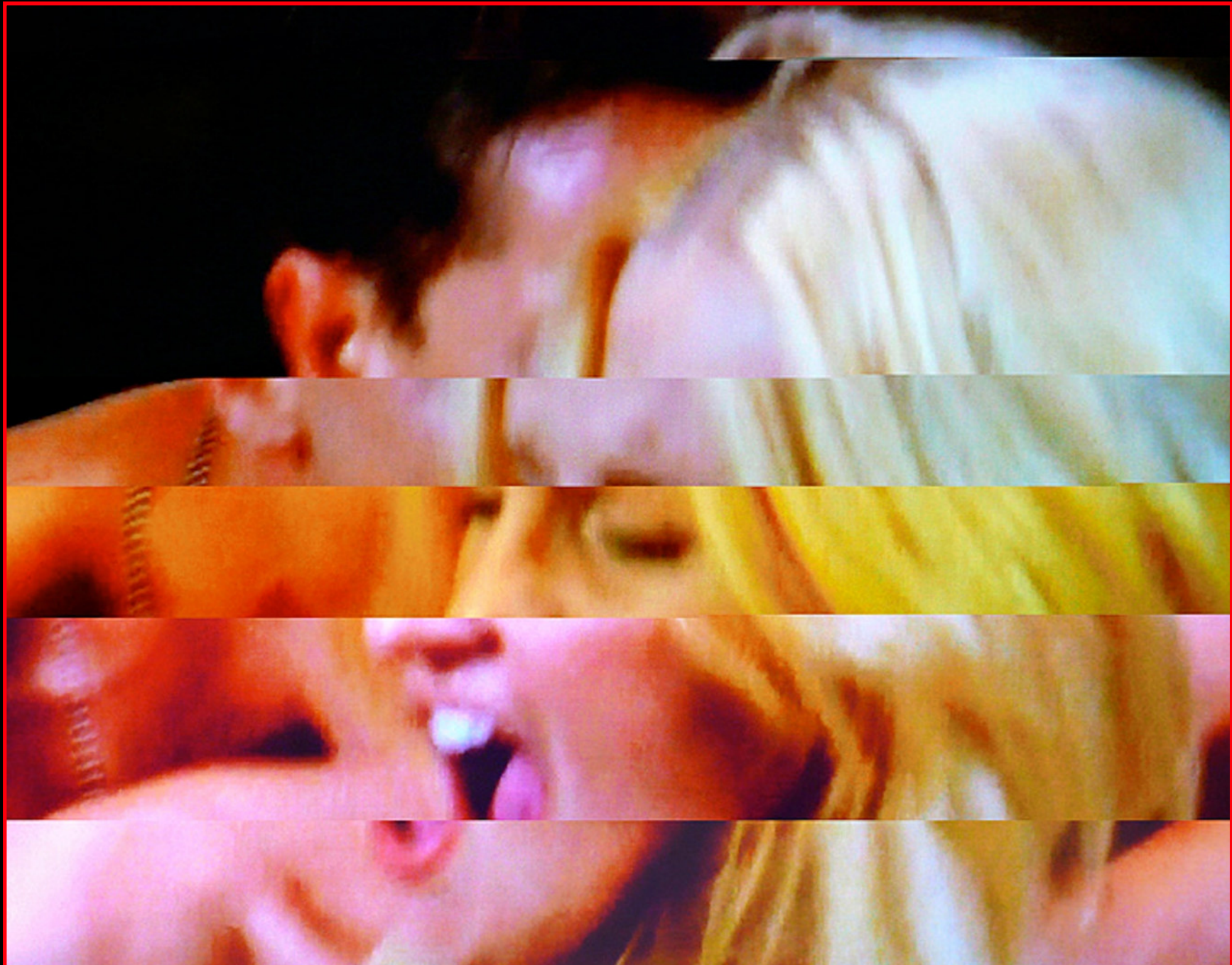


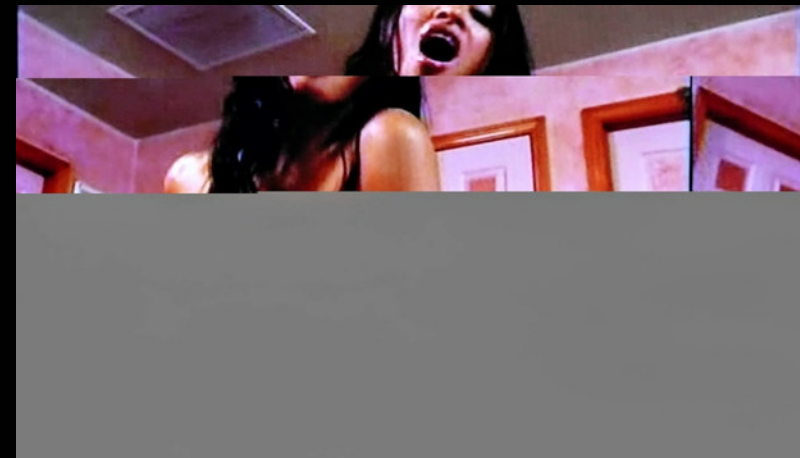
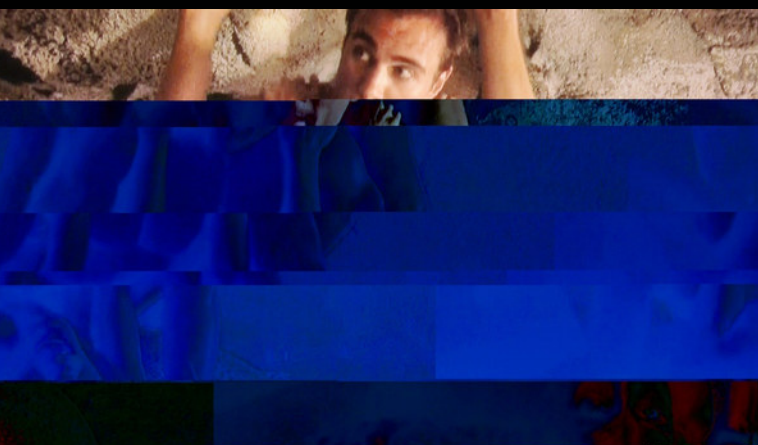


sex in california

episodes 1-10

still photos from episode 4



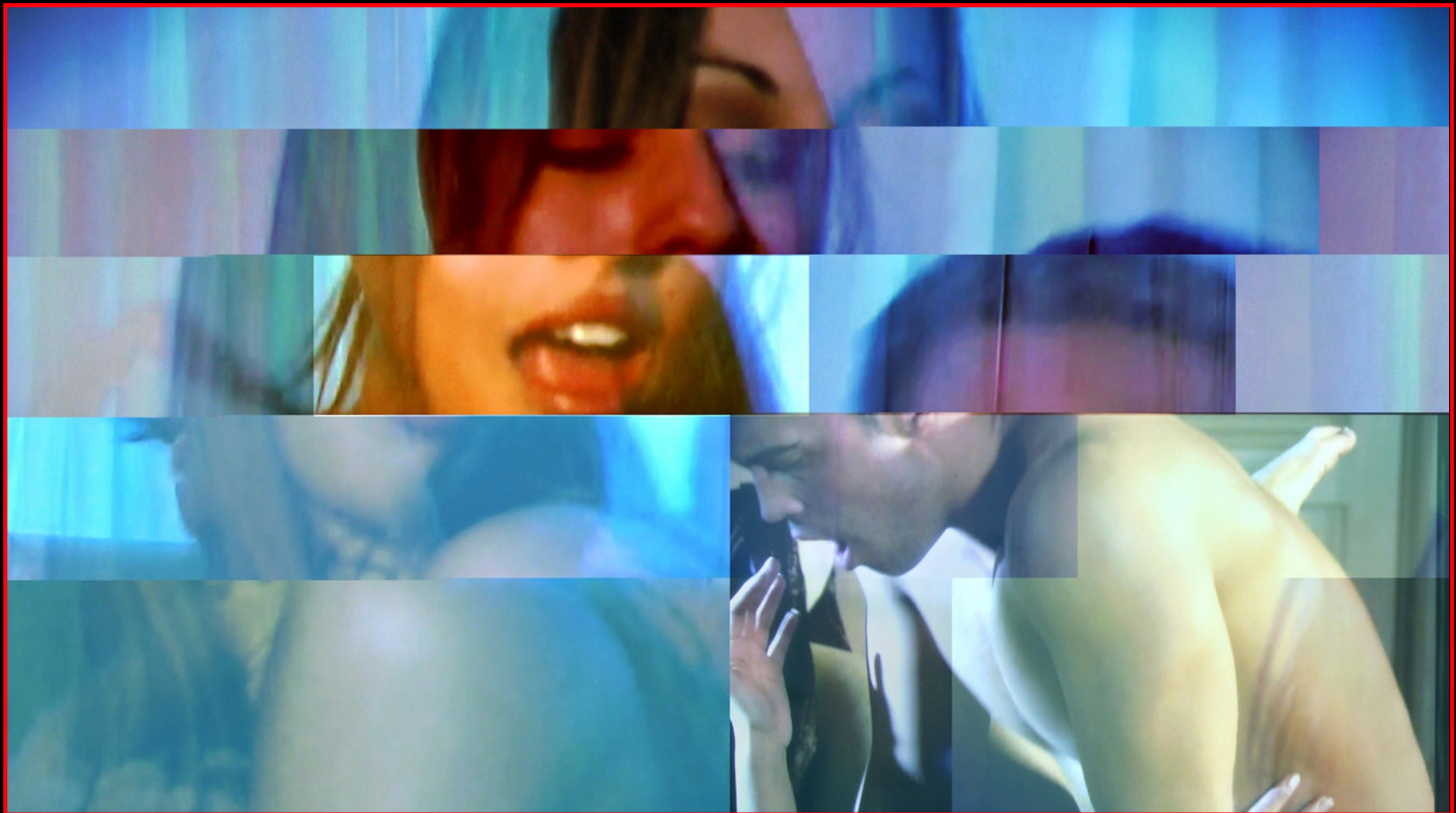


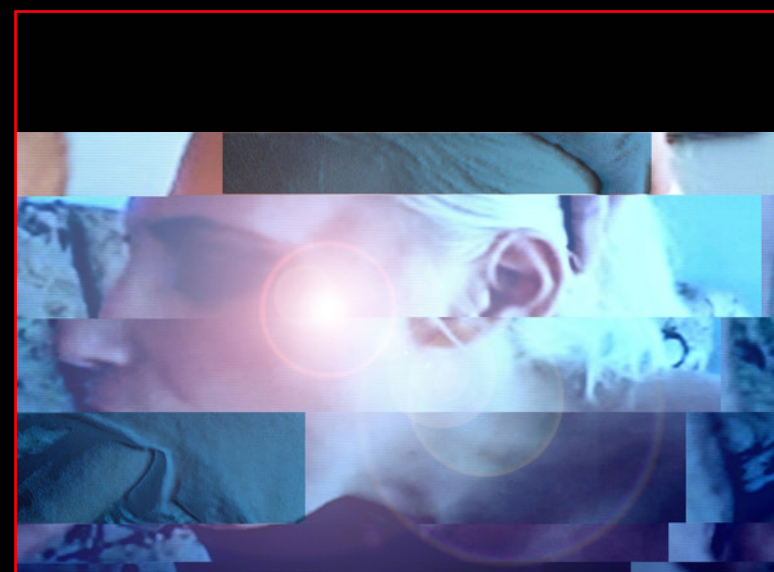
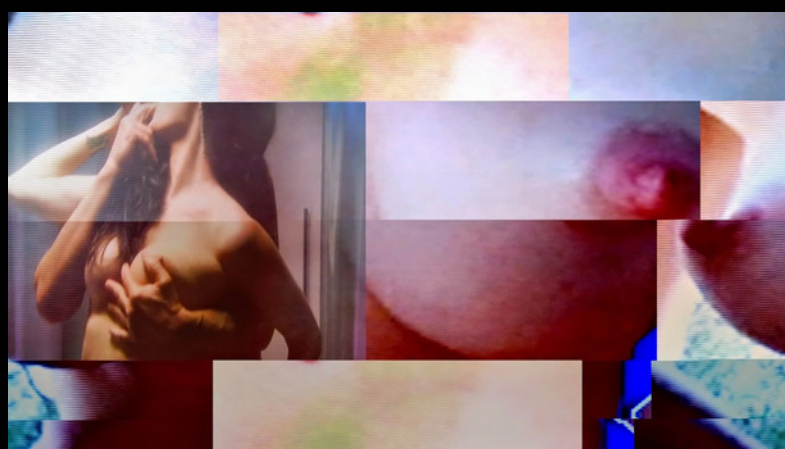
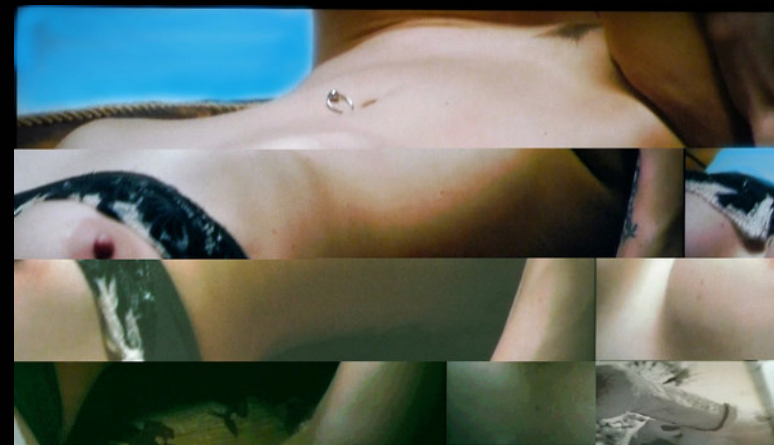
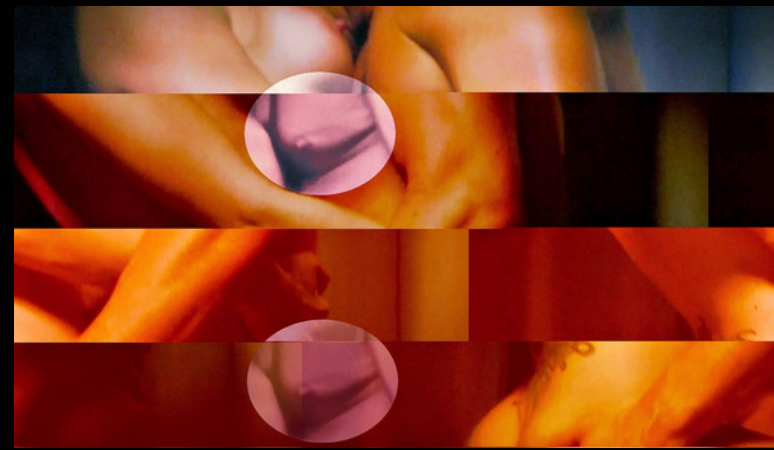


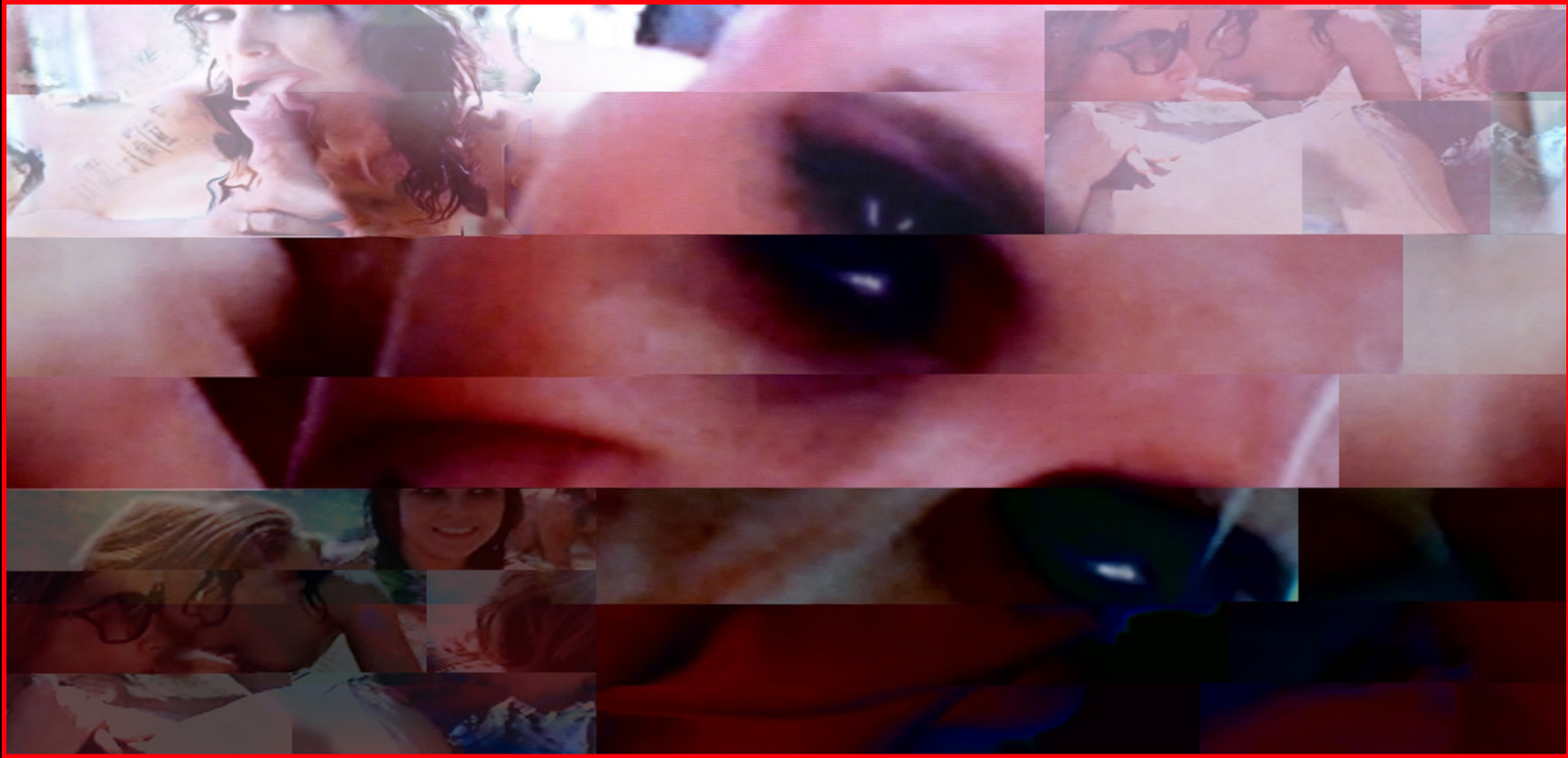
sex in california

episodes 1-10

still photos from episode 5



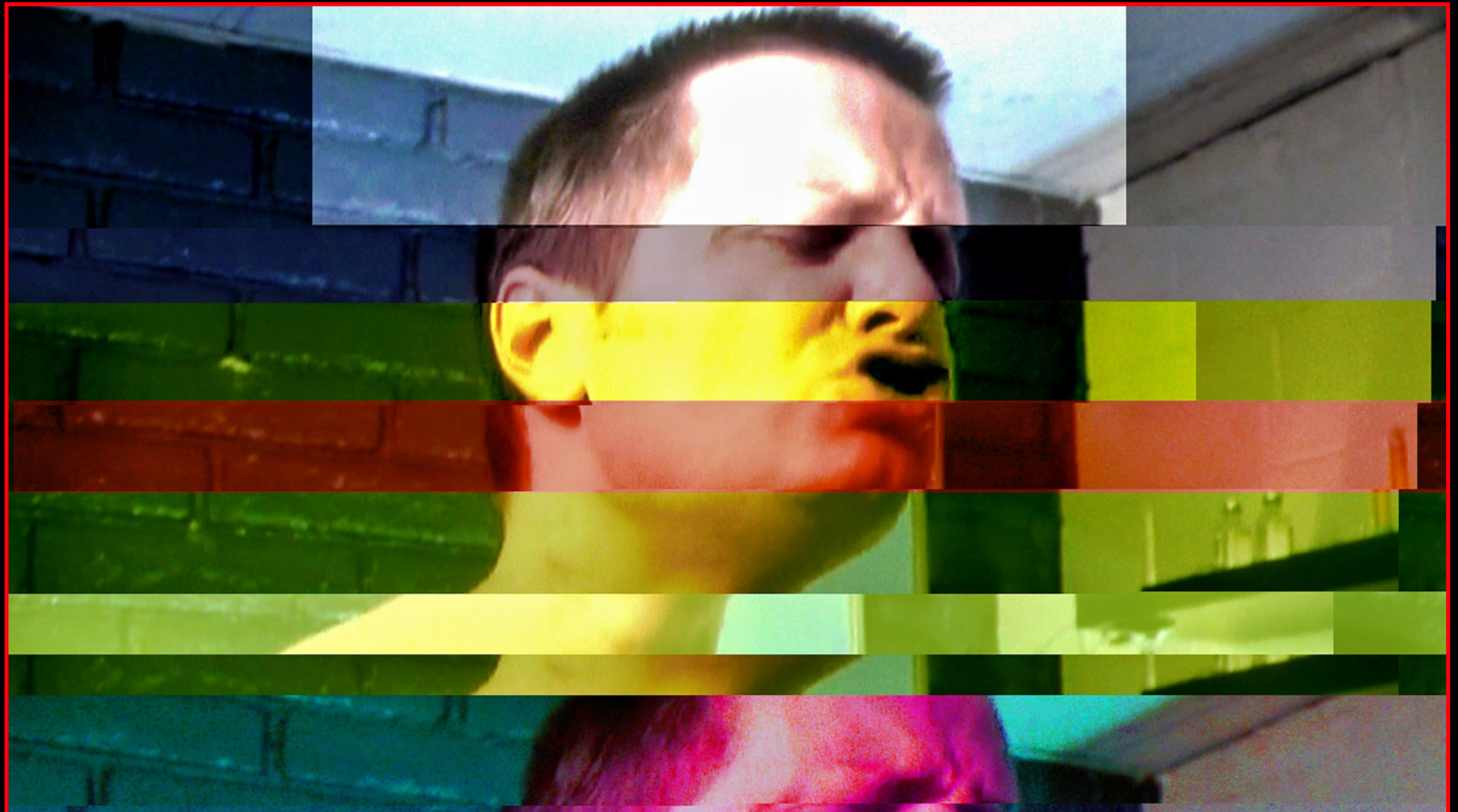




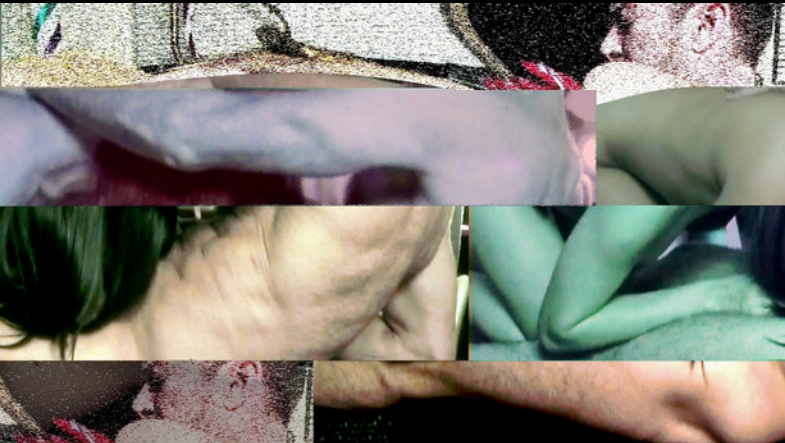
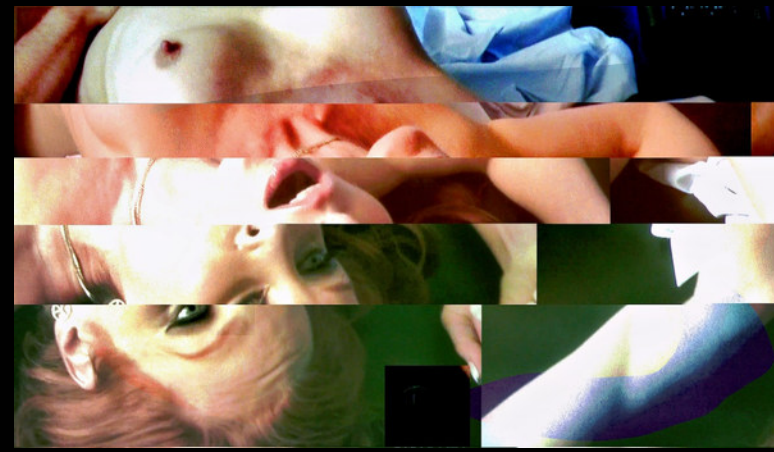
sex in california

episodes 1-10

still photos from episode 6





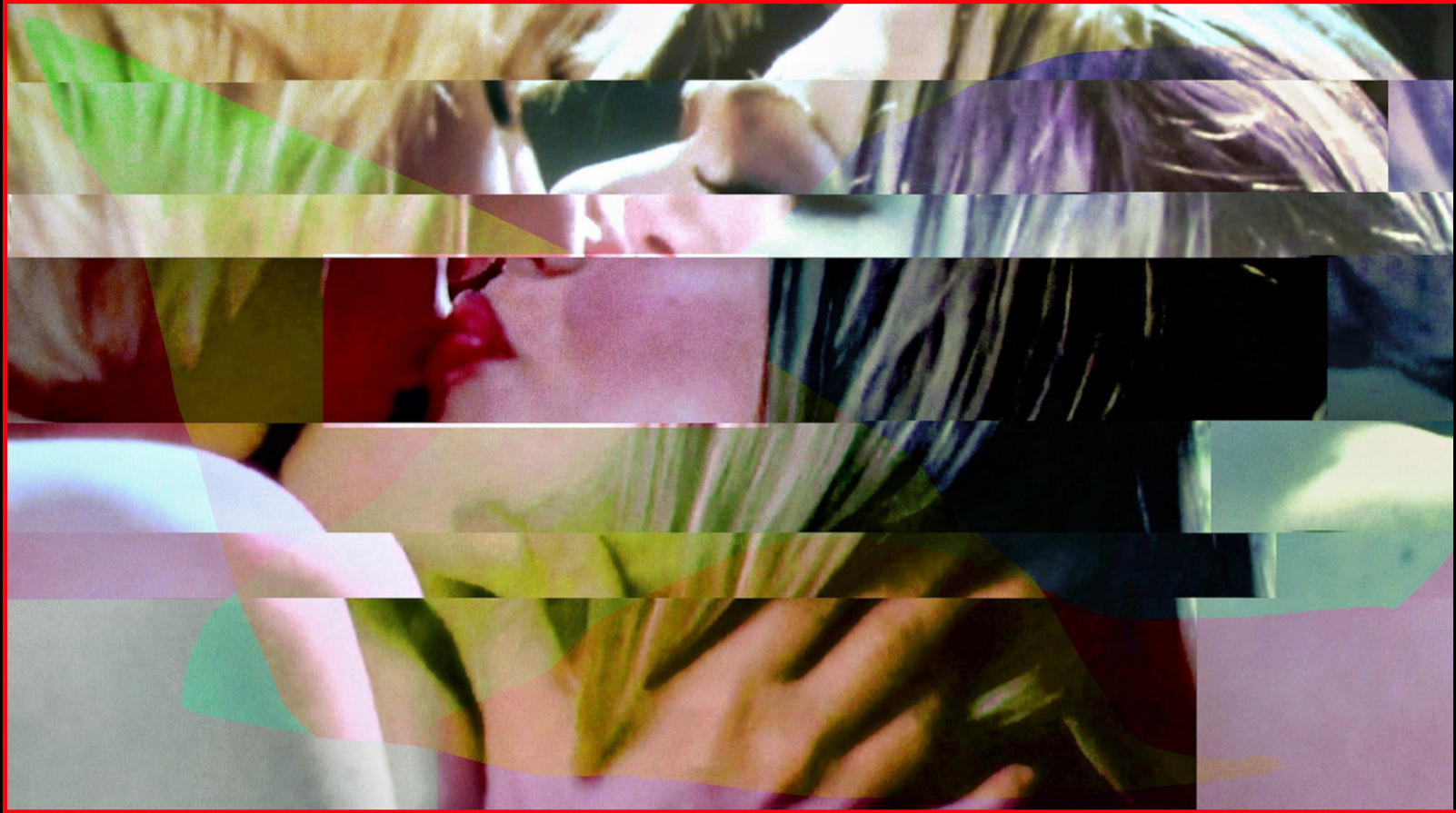


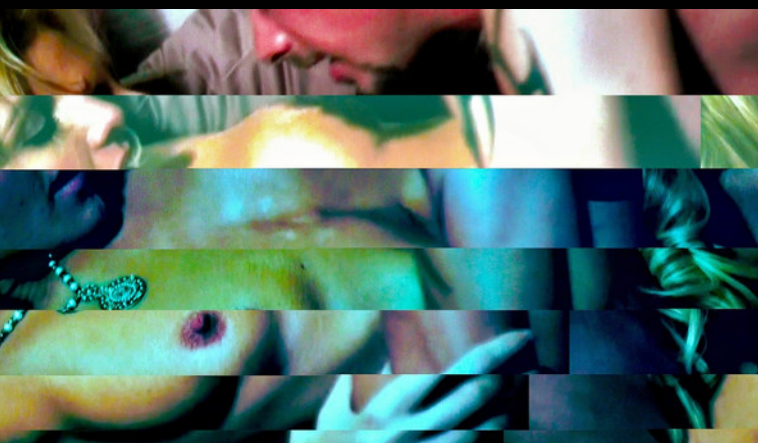
sex in california

episodes 1-10

still photos from episode 7







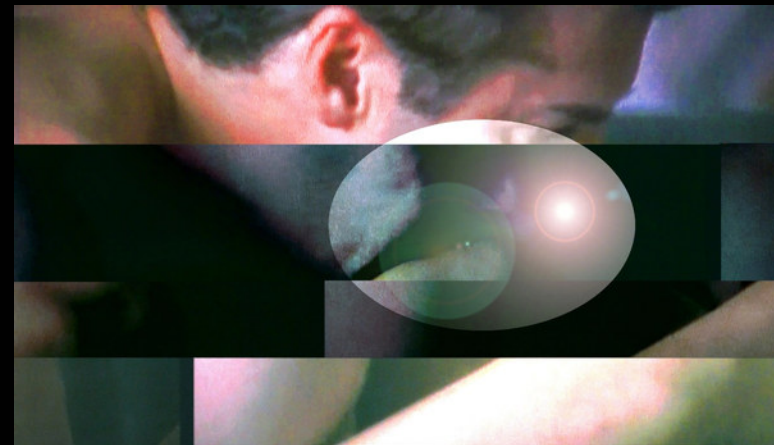


sex in california

episodes 1-10

still photos from episode 8







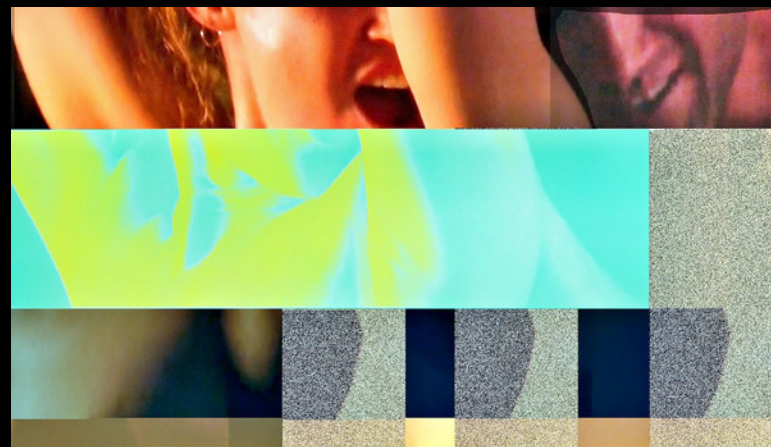
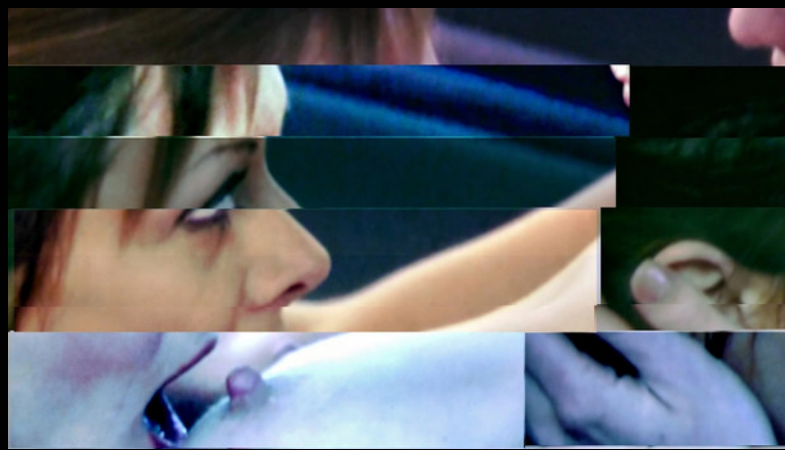
sex in california

episodes 1-10

still photos from episode 9





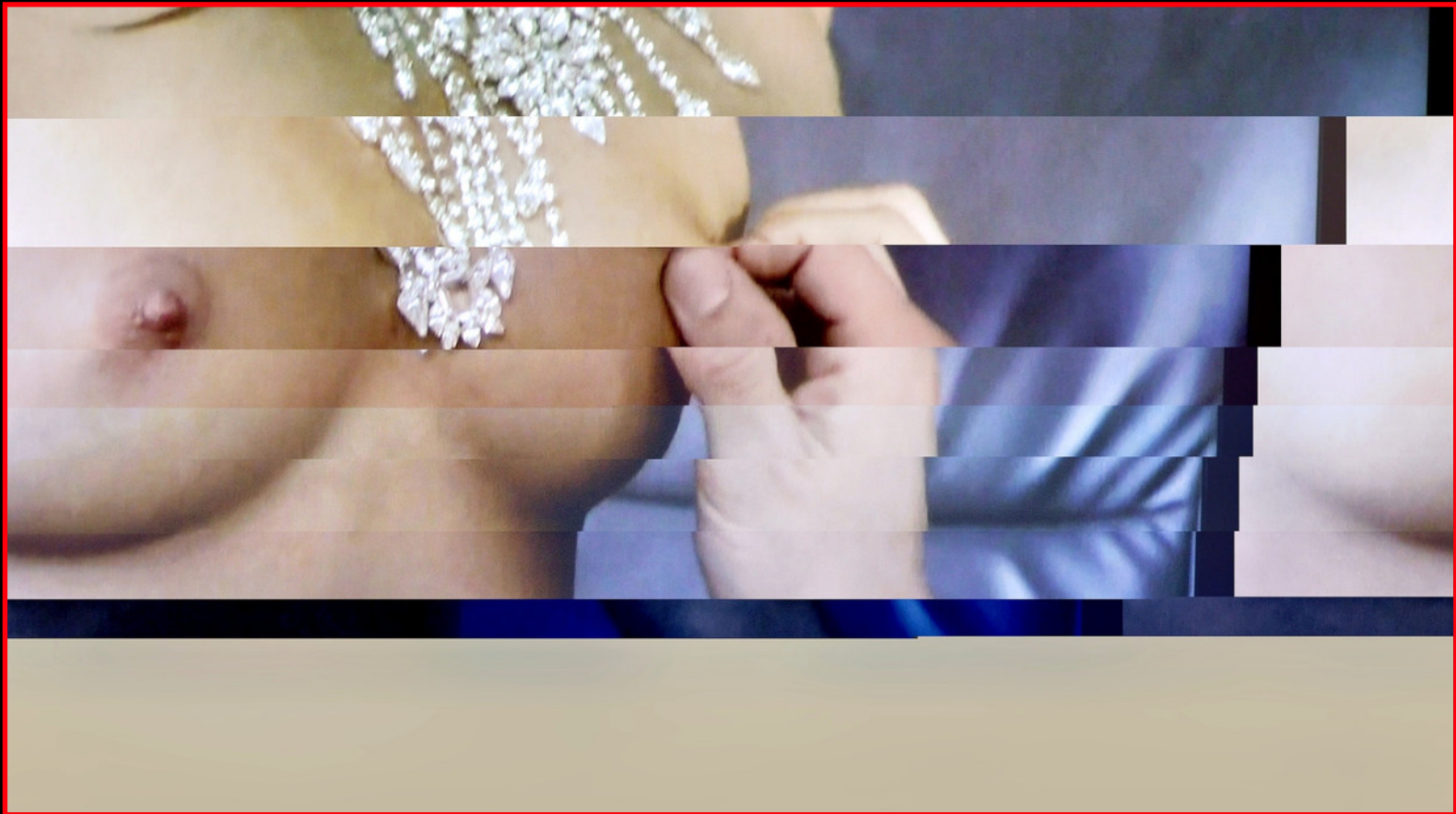


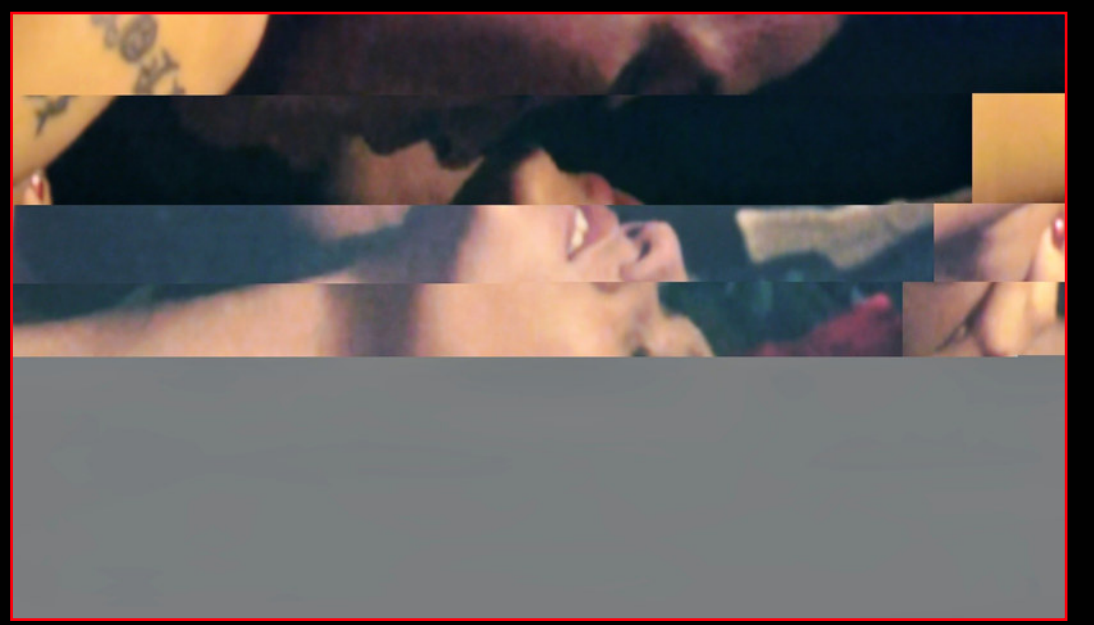
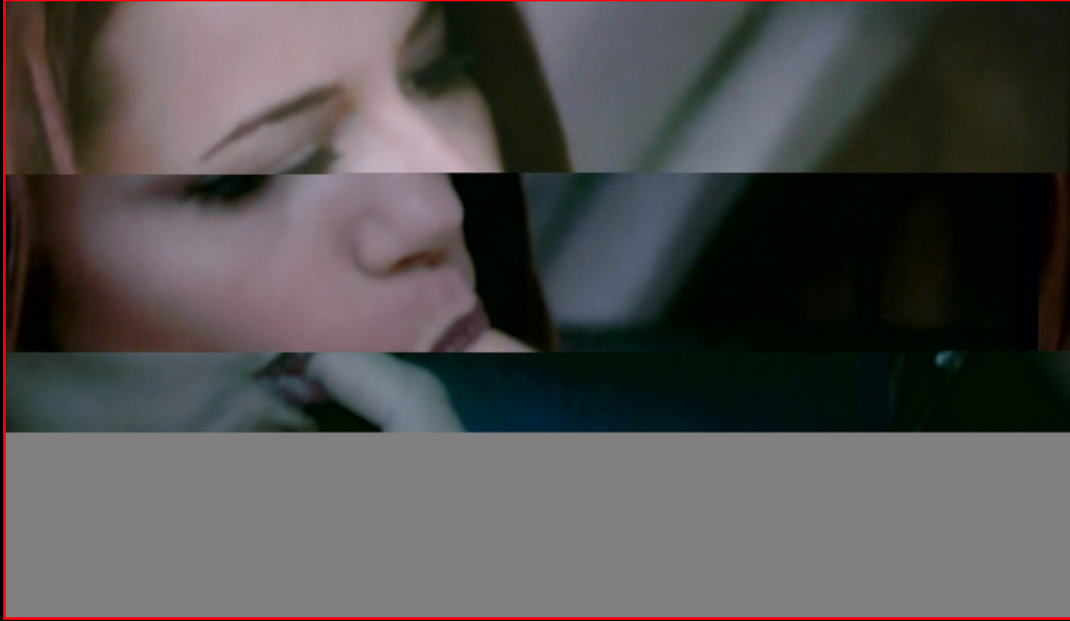
sex in california

episodes 1-10

still photos from episode 10







To Buddha and Back

In 2014 I was watching a group of Nepalese monks create a sacred sand mandala at the Hammer Museum in Los Angeles. The traditional forms they created were extraordinary, made even more so by the temporal nature of this selfless, ephemeral practice. At the end of the making of the mandala, the monks swept the entire piece away in a dissolution ceremony, leaving no trace of the beautiful creation they had labored to make over two weeks. The generosity of this ceremony was so unlike most of what I was experiencing in contemporary Western arts.

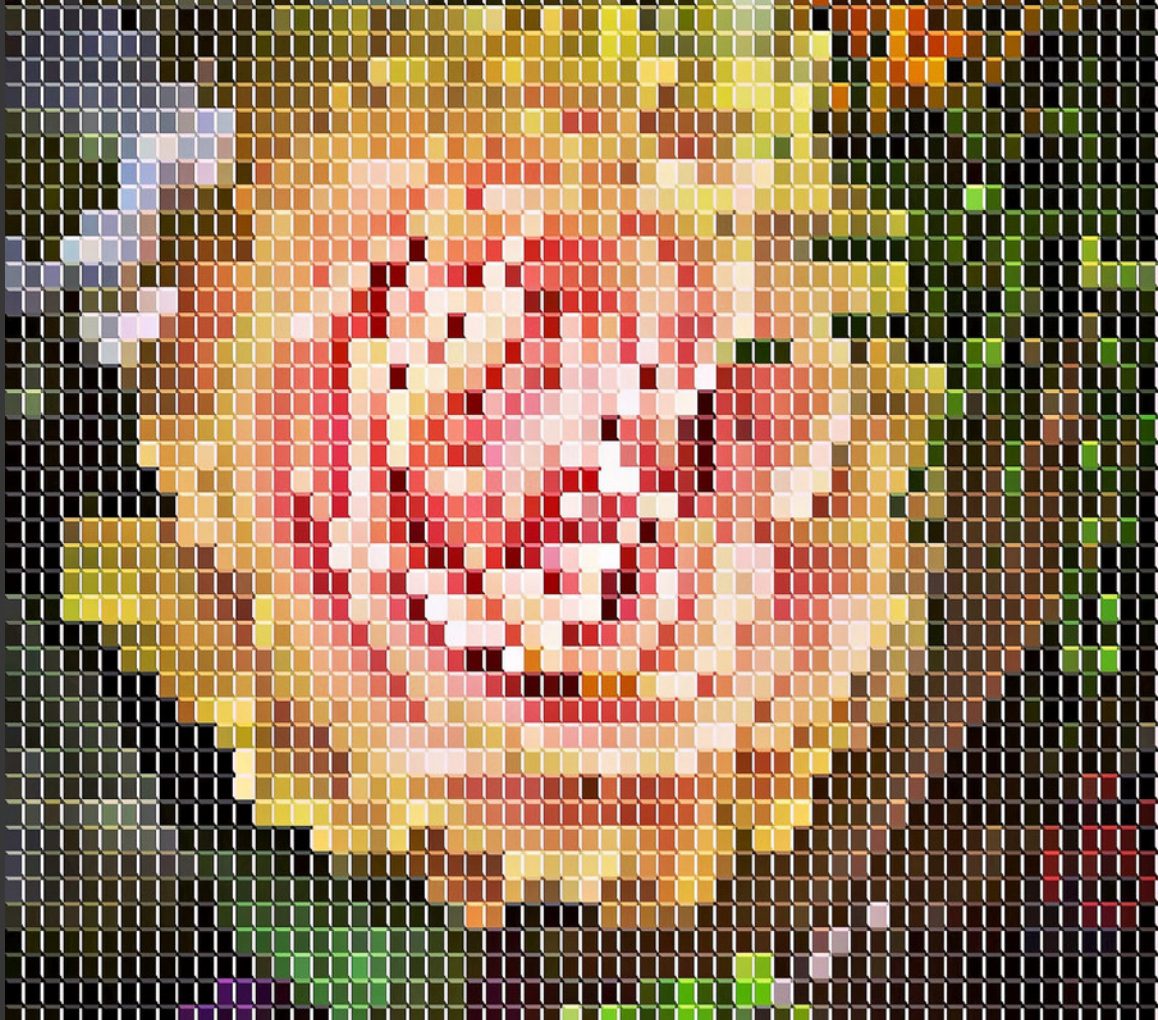
I have always loved Tibetan Tanka painting, and had studied Carl Jung's work with mandalas. I was engaged with Buddhism, intrigued by lotus imagery, and mandala tattoos. But seeing the monks make this incredible work must have made an impression on me.

About a year later I began taking photographs of flowers with my I-phone and making what I called *Flower Mediations*. I still do, and I distribute them on my Instagram account, @artandvictory. These I-photos are made to give my Instagram account followers a break in the day from all the serious stuff happening in the world, a simple image for meditation, and the pleasure of seeing something beautiful.

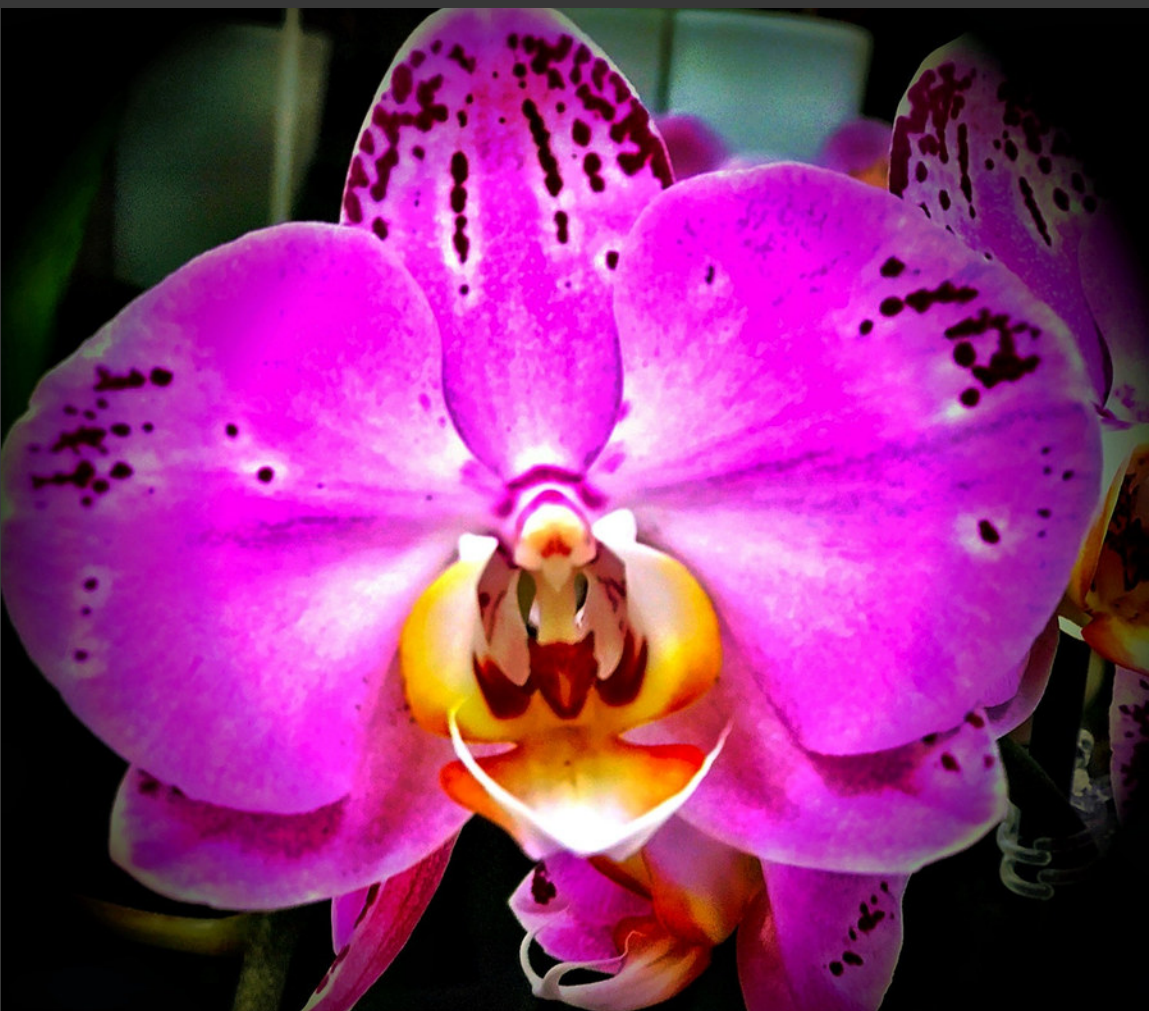
Mandalas represent compassion, purity and clarity, with the power to transform negativity and awaken altruism and compassion in the viewer. It is a profound, universal symbol, a visual representation of the notion that everything and everyone is linked together. I feel this is something we need everyday, a gentle reminder that we live in this world and care for it and each other with love, kindness and open heartedness. And perhaps we need to remember this now, more than ever.

























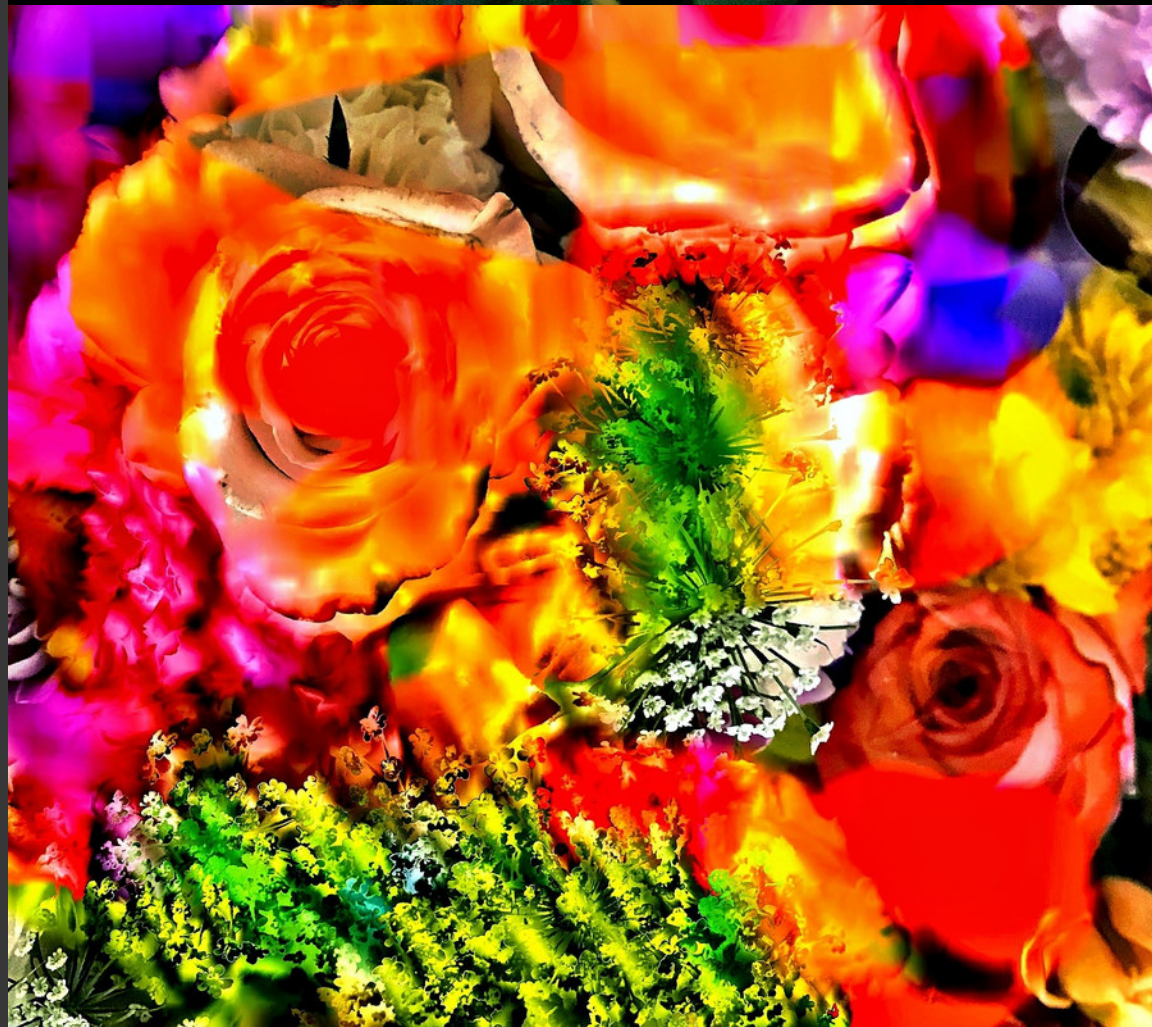






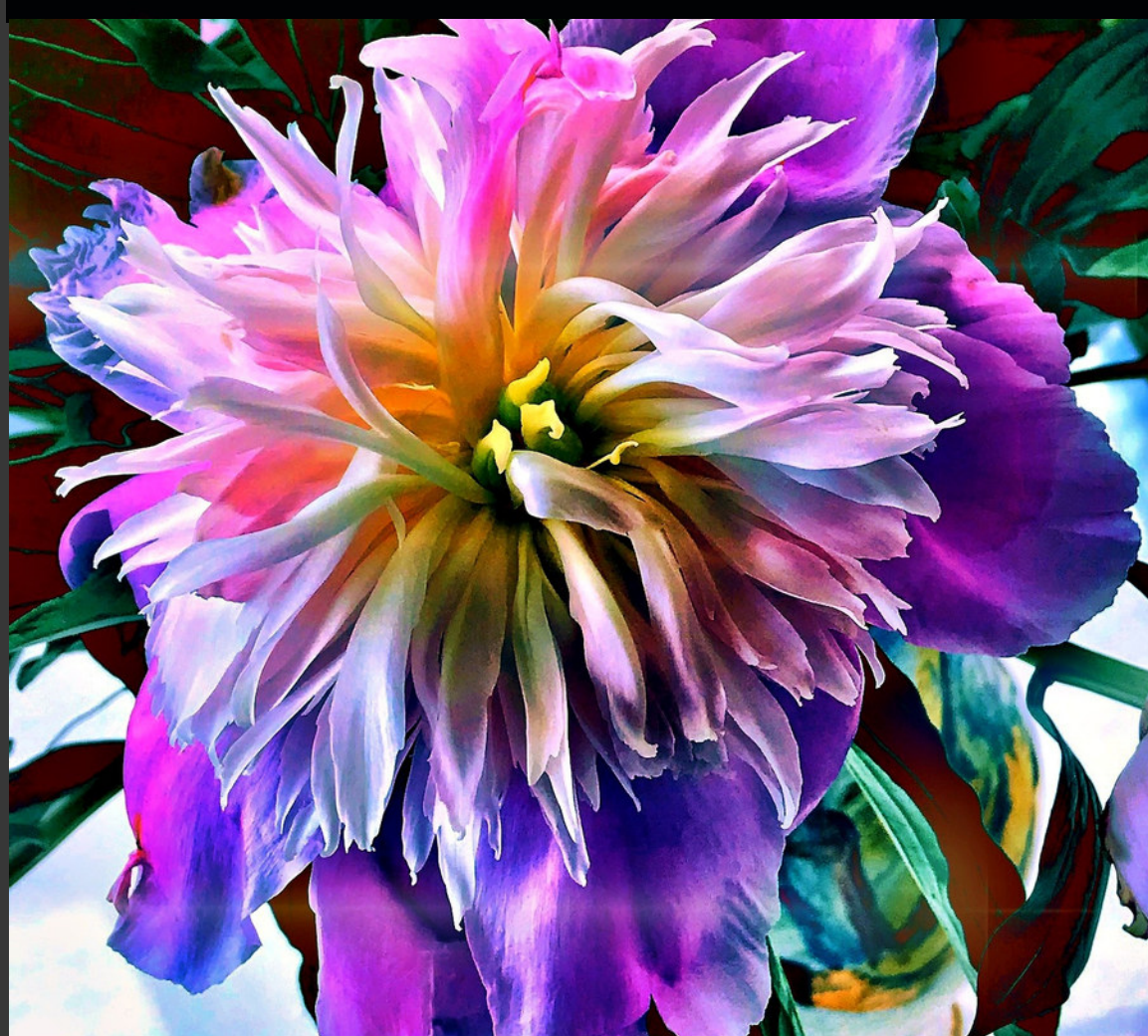










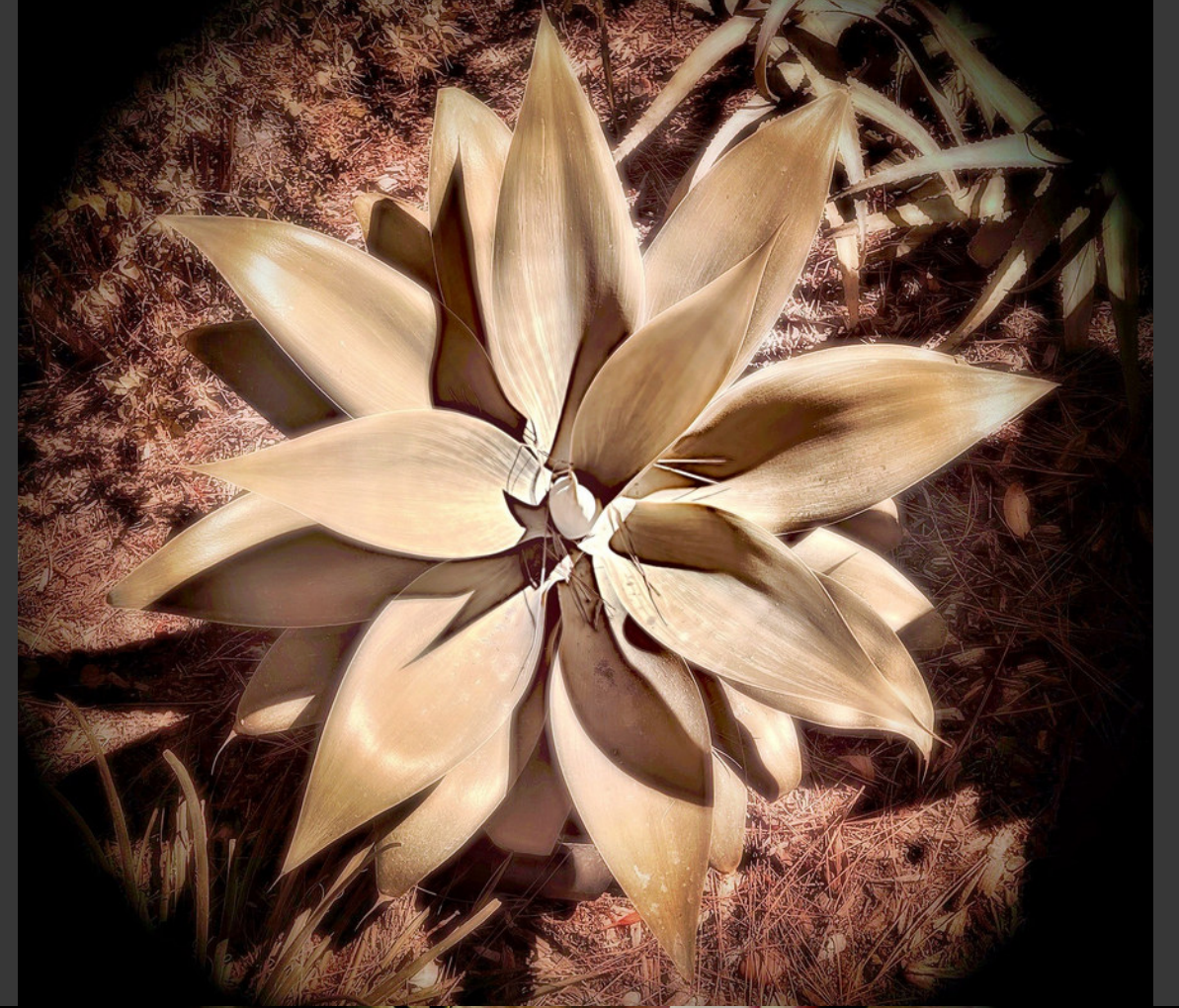
















IKEA Parables

This is a series of short parables set in the near future, when a huge disparity in wealth and class in the United States has caused an uprising in the general population. As a result, a progressive, democratic socialist government is elected. It passes numerous laws promoting the reformation of corporate culture and local economies to deal with high unemployment, poverty, pay gap between genders, and enormous homelessness. One such measure allows pop-up businesses to access large department stores without notice or any required permit and set up shop.

It was a brief time of intense creativity, homespun development for the disenfranchised, which often saw odd combinations of cottage industry adjacent mass shopping experiences.

These are some of those experiences, as might have occurred at the family style IKEA home goods emporium.

All photographs are of variable sizes, 17" x 22" to 51" x 66"



In 2028, the newly elected Third Party Socialist President of the United States signed into law the National Cottage Industry Act. This allowed any individual to set up, at will, a pop-up business in an established retail operation. Due to the expanding inequity of income between lower, middle, and upper income wage earners; the 30% national unemployment after the pandemic of 2020-26; and the stock market scandals of 2024 accompanied by subsequent monetary devaluations, this was a vitally necessary and popular law with the huge gig workforce.

Passage of NCIA corresponded with a host of progressive legislation such as universal animal rights; sex law worker anti-discrimination mandates; a cabinet position for Arts and Culture; and universal meditation practice in the schools. While the NCIA lasted (until the conservative Supreme Court in 2031 overturned all of these initiatives) IKEA was a favorite site for popup personal economies and cultural experiments of all kinds. Creative and adaptable as a corporation who had seen its market share plummet when most consumers switched to on-line shopping with Amazon, IKEA threw open its doors to all comers. IKEA became a community-commons, and they had never done a better business. Profits rose 150%.

This came to halt when the Socialist President was defeated and left office in 2032. The campaign was marked by a rejection of Democratic Socialism, replaced by the rising Nationalist Freedom Party, a wealthy group of former Republicans and Democrats, who favored of a return to the neo-liberal market capitalism ethos.



THE SITUATION ROOM

IKEA would encourage people to FIRST gather in a waiting area, with the sign clearly displayed which said, Create Your Own Dream ROOM FOR JUST..... Anyone was allowed to gather, stay as long as they pleased, and read information about the new pop-up economy.

A detailed floor plan, updated daily and also included on a mobile app, showed where pop-up vendors, performers, floorwalkers, and other service employees, would be stationed. To get double value on the use of space, IKEA used this area of the store to have a retail mini-gallery of local artists whose careers had slumped during the financial downturn. Some well-known artists work could be had for a fraction of their former sales price. Yet these ups and downs in an artist's career was one of the unfortunate vagaries they had come to expect like the rest of the population.

Visitors to the store were happy to see the art, feel they still had a dream to manifest that they could purchase at IKEA, and then would move off into the store with maps in hand to find the unexpected.



THE WAITING ROOM

Animal rights activists became a powerful political force and banished all leash laws by 2027. Every living species was declared equal in the New Sensibility.

What had been formerly known as “pets,” including some that really weren’t meant to be, now roamed everywhere unmolested. This did cause health and sanitation issues as they defecated inside of stores, including IKEA.

As a proactive response IKEA recognized that with the collapse of the recycling industry which occurred when China and North Korea stopped buying the U.S garbage during the U.S. - All Asian Trade Wars, trash collectors had been thrown out of work.

Ever the innovator, IKEA hired a new work force of professional “Uber Pooper Scoopers.” By putting these men back to work it boosted the ailing economy, kept the stores sanitized, animal based diseases didn’t spread, while shoppers felt safe and secure and had clean shoes.



ANIMAL RIGHTS ROOM

Rather than participating with a broken non-profit philanthropic system that had little remedy, IKEA came up with a unique private-public sector partnership. There was an older tradition in the U.S. of hiring piano players to play “pops” music for senior citizens during the afternoon when they would frequent department stores and malls. In this spirit performance, spoken word, musicians, and theatre artists were part of a unique residency program with the many IKEA stores throughout the United States and Europe through their Pop-Up Poets Program.

IKEA was known for its showrooms of interiors spaces that suggest how your own home could be. In these spaces, performers and poets lived “in residence,” sleeping there at night, and using the public restrooms and restaurant for their bathings and meals. During business hours they recited and performed their original works.

The value of this program, to have talented artists in residence, was beneficial on numerous levels. IKEA contributed the fees for the artists, housing, and food. The artist’s presence provided unique entertainment as well as exposure to cultural offerings, an educational value for diverse audiences, along with new jobs for the creative community, and a marketing coup for IKEA as a supporter of the arts. Ultimately increased customer traffic increased to the stores.

Everyone loved it, not just seniors.



POP UP POETS PROJECT

Ever the innovator, IKEA worked with California State Health care professionals to respond to new AARP recommendations that lap dancing for Senior's provided extensive Wellness benefits. Four in five men over the age of 75 who participated in 15 or minutes of lap dancing, at least 3 times weekly, experienced- a 50% drop in annual visits to Emergency Rooms; a 25% increase in cognitive awareness; and a 33% drop in their SED Prostate Count.

In another "win-win" scenario for IKEA, retail sales soared in the bedding department as new senior male customers flocked to the Lap Dancing Wellness Program. They purchased new mattresses reflective of their invigorated health. Ever socially conscious, IKEA added many new job hires to its work force from the large unemployed ranks of single mothers ages 18-35, hovering near 50% in California.

Developing strong brand loyalty with these contract employees (thinking they made for ideal lap dancers) became an IKEA goal. To attract this female demographic IKEA provided a unique value-added bonus. With the disappearance of government funded Day Care programs, IKEA encouraged lap-dancing mothers to bring their children to work where they were given hot meals. It instilled strong worker retention that benefited IKEA enormously in terms of repeat customers and customer loyalty.

It also extended the life and happiness of untold numbers of male seniors.



LAP DANCING FOR SENIORS

They were billed as Bright and Smiley, the Mindfulness Twins, who began appearing on the IKEA circuit in early 2021.

Known for their long meditation trances that included levitating without throwing shadows, they liked to host Dharma Sittings with the early afternoon senior citizen crowd. But they also drew a following of pronoun neutral young persons; anyone in fact whose identity was being neutralized by age, hence growing invisibility or by Youth and choice. Their followers all sought a momentarily quiet if unique space to inhabit through them.

There are few if any recordings of Bright and Smiley speaking, little is known of their past. They were discovered hovering mid air in a small encampment around Quartzite, California over by the Arizona border. We do know they'd been living for an indeterminate time with their mother, perfecting mindfulness techniques while their neighbors built up a thriving methamphetamine business in the warren of old Air Stream trailers and cast off Star Wagons from movie lots in the community of castoffs and iconoclasts Bright and Smiley called home.



BRIGHT AND SMILEY

In the era of the Great Cultural Diffusion, vast numbers of people in the U.S. lost their homes due to cyclical pandemics and unrelenting urban development. It was a worldwide phenomenon as capital concentrated in the hands of the upper 5% who could pay for safe housing.

The rest became part of the Human Flow ever uncertain about basic shelter. However, this seeming catastrophe did lead to occasionally creative solutions. One memorable instance was when the Governor of California in 2029 declared a State of Housing Emergency and ordered all department stores to offer temporary affordable housing especially since the hotels and motels were now full of the displaced populations.

Ever responsive, IKEA jumped on board, and brought displaced indigenous persons from the Sudan, Iraq, Chad, Central America, and any place our foreign policy had faltered. As pictured here, this tribal Shaman became a local celebrity known among Los Angelino's for his healing powers. He managed to live in the showroom for over six years.

The IKEA Program was decried by some as a blatant racist tourist attraction instead of finding real housing. IKEA admitted the continuing "colorful presence" of the tribal shaman boosted retail sales. The Shaman, when questioned, seemed perplexed and replied that he only slept on the floor, as was his custom and meant no offense. During the day he enjoyed meeting people and eating in the cafeteria. The IKEA Swedish meatballs were his favorite dish.



CULTURAL DIFFUSION ATTRACTION

World consumer shortages caused by the decline in Chinese exports, after its economic bubble collapsed, critically affected the supply of sharp instruments. Especially impacted were needles for vaccinations and tattoo inking.

IKEA managed, as many corporations were doing, to negotiate contracts with manufacturers in Asia and Central America, thereby avoiding the U.S. supply system which was bogged down in regulations and fuel production curtailed by the Green Socialist government.

IKEA recognized an opportunity to employ tattoo artists and medical technicians whose incomes had been drastically lowered. The response filled the constant need for vaccines to combat the many dangerous viruses that were prevalent. To make it more sympathetic, IKEA established a pop-up body salon and urgent care center.

Customers usually came for one service but often stayed to access the others. While this effort was in place, a famous style of tattooing was created at IKEA. Quite unlike other styles, it combined the best of graffiti, jail house line work, and variations on baroque Japanese Yakuza tattoo designs. The IKEA Inking Style remains legendary.

Eventually the popularity of the salon at IKEA caused security issues. Armed guards had to be posted to keep various shady types out of the store. Their presence eventually curtailed these services. A series of violent high-profile gang-type altercations took place, shots were fired that scared customers, and the final result was causing the closing of the Salon.



THE BODY SALON

IKEA, in an effort to improve customer relations and take advantage of the many out of work models, escorts, and actresses who now spent their days in the store with nothing to do, reinstated the Floorwalker position.

Originally a salesperson who oversaw the sales staff and customer satisfaction, IKEA took this a step further by employing legions of good-looking young women who would dress in alluring garb and appear all over the store. As Floorwalkers, they would perch near sale items to bring the customers attention to them, extolling the product virtues in an inviting manner.

Unfortunately, IKEA's attempts to hire young men for the same positions did not work. Many of them by this time, having lost a sense of their identity and purpose in life, had descended into self-abuse and homelessness, just lying around and begging.

However, the government considered the act of asking for money legitimate work. The unwanted presence by IKEA management of vagrant men wasn't solved until the National Cottage Industry Act was revoked in 2031. At that moment, all homeless persons were barred from entering IKEA.



FLOORWALKERS

In a gesture of fun and customer immersion and engagement, IKEA commissioned several media artists to create a virtual installation. Based on some of the IKEA tattoo inking styles invented in the salon room, the creators produced a woman's heavily tattooed torso as a hologram. It appeared in the middle of the Installation Room floating above a bed. At first barely visible, then coming into focus, it turned different colors before it suddenly blinked out.

This experience lasted for about 30 seconds and repeated itself every half hour. In another part of the room, customers inadvertently stepped into another light effect, where they completely disappeared, leaving only a white space where they had been standing. Done with mirrors, the confused customer found themselves unwittingly walking out of the room altogether, unseen by the other customers in the room. It was quite a trick, something along the lines of feeling invisible in a complicated North American society.

People loved the room. The artists said they were basing it on the ubiquitous Yayoi Kusuma rooms that had routinely popped up in museums around the world as an art attraction. The big difference was IKEA let people move in and out of their room for free staying as long as they wished. Whereas the museums had been charging a \$15.00 ticket on top of their ordinary entry fee (often \$25 or more) to enter the Kusuma rooms for 1 minute. Customers appreciated this bit of art philanthropy at IKEA, preferring it to the overpriced experience contemporary museums had been offering before the distressed economy closed many of them down and ordinary people had stopped going because of the high cost of culture.



APPARITION INSTALLATION ROOM

Almost Arcadia

Almost Arcadia is a series of photo-montage prints that explore the origins of manifest destiny and the control of nature that has led to climate change in the United States, accompanied by the consequences of colonization. Yet it also envisions a future that returns to the promise of the Arcadian universe.

Arcadia is a poetic space characterized by bountiful natural splendor and harmony. The romantic and traditional notion is that it is unattainable, a lost Eden. The inhabitants of Arcadia lived after the manner of the Golden Age, without the pride and avarice that corrupted other regions. During this age, peace and harmony prevailed in that people did not have to work to feed themselves for the earth provided food in abundance. They lived to a very old age with a youthful appearance, eventually dying peacefully, with spirits living on as "guardians". Plato recounts the golden race of humans who came first, who were good and noble.

There exists in the collective unconscious a desire to return to Arcadia, the lost Eden, and be at one with nature; unsullied, pure, enfolded in the womb of a poetic universe. Arcadia's existence is eternally undone as we become self-aware within it, over populate it, and attempt to shape it image to be a reflection of ourselves, with all our imperfections. Yet like Plato's original humans, our aspirations to the good, the noble, and beautiful remain constant and genuine.

The work in this series of photographs are based on Thomas Cole's allegorical paintings, *The Journey of Life* and *The Course of Empire*, as well works by as other Luminist and Hudson River Valley School artists. They are some of my favorite paintings, yet I am aware of the historical context in which they were painted, and some of the problems they now present.

In *Almost Arcadia* my intention is to question and revise some of these problems using the original paintings. A conservative of his time, Cole was a European who became a North American transplant, and carried with him all the biases and racist assumptions that we still are trying to overcome in the vestiges of our colonial history. Proposing a new spirituality based on Nature, the ironic legacy of Cole's art was to open up North America to the exploitation and degradation of the environment he so revered.

From *Art and Antiques* in 1994, written by Elizabeth Licata, is the following:

"The artist celebrates the American wilderness, typically using the image of the Native American as a symbol of untamed nature, rather than as an inhabitant of the natural world. Cole sincerely believed that Native Americans and Africans were inferior beings and feared them as "bestial creatures who might arise and eradicate the European settlers." For this reason, among others, he was in favor of the cultivation of the wild. At the same time, Cole detested the speedy settlement of America's interior, writing in his journal in 1829, "Nothing is more disagreeable to me than the sight of lands that on just clearing with its prostrate tress--black stumps burnt and deformed--All the native beauty of the forest taken away by improving man--And alas he replaces it with none of the beauties of Art--."

Beside unpacking our national legacy of Manifest Destiny there is another side to *Almost Arcadia*, more hopeful. Arcadia is a poetic space characterized by bountiful natural splendor and harmony. The romantic and traditional notion is that it is unattainable, a lost Eden. While this is a metaphor for the climate crisis and a warming world, there still lives in the collective world community a desire to return to Arcadia, the lost Eden, and be at one with nature; unsullied, pure, enfolded in the womb of a poetic universe. Arcadia's existence is eternally undone as we become self-aware within it, over populate it, and attempt to shape it to be a reflection of ourselves, with all our imperfections. But our aspirations to the good, the noble, and beautiful remain constant and genuine. This optimistic altruism we need going forward.

All images are 17" x 22"



ALMOST ARCADIA



THE JOURNEY OF MAN- CHILDHOOD



THE JOURNEY OF MAN- YOUTH



THE JOURNEY OF MAN- ADULTHOOD



THE JOURNEY OF MAN- OLD AGE



INDIFFERENCE IN ARCADIA



COLD DAY IN ARCADIA



SYLVAN GLADE



FALLING IN AND OUT OF ARCADIA



THE COURSE OF CIVILIZATION- THE SAVAGE STATE



THE COURSE OF CIVILIZATION- THE ARCADIAN STATE



THE COURSE OF CIVILIZATION- CONSUMMATION



THE COURSE OF CIVILIZATION- DESTRUCTION



THE COURSE OF CIVILIZATION- DESOLATION 1



THE COURSE OF CIVILIZATION- DESOLATION 2



ARCADIA BY THE SEA



INVITATION TO ARCADIA



TROPICAL ARCADIA



APOSTOSY IN ARCADIA



CRASH LANDING IN ARCADIA



DEEP LISTENING IN ARCADIA



ERUPTION IN ARCADIA



FOUNTAIN OF YOUTH



THE ARCHITECT OF ARCADIA



GENTRIFICATION IN ARCADIA



SEARCHING FOR THE SUBLIME



THE TENDER HEART OF NATURE



EXPULSION FROM ARCADIA



UNDER THE STARS IN ARCADIA



DEFIANCE OF GRAVITY



THE ONRUSHING FLOODS



THE RAPTURE ARRIVES



THE NEW WORLD

