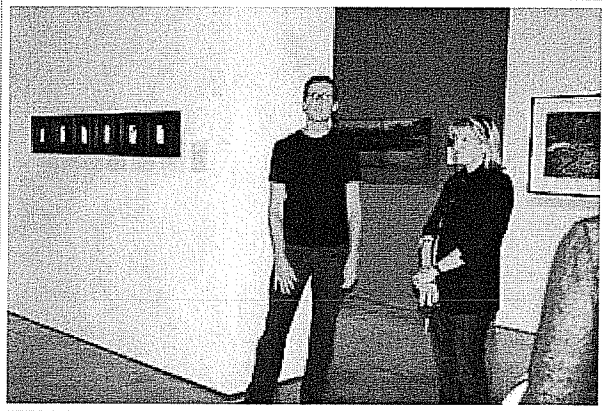


FRIDAY, AUGUST 13, 2010

Tintype-making demo by Michael Shindler @ the San Jose Institute of Contemporary Art

Michael Shindler is one of the artists of the show "Exposed: Today's Photography/Yesterday's Technology" at the San Jose Institute of Contemporary Art.



Michael Shindler and Cathy Kimball, ICA Executive Director. Shindler's pieces are on the left.

Michael Shindler first talked next to his pieces in the show. Shindler is used to the darkroom where he worked for years. When he realized that it was very difficult to tell the difference between an argentic print and a digital print, he looked for a process which gives a unique result (every plate is an original), which cannot be achieved with digital photography. And so he started to make tintypes (positive image on a metal plate - the first tintypes appeared in the late 1880s).

Making tintypes is a combination of magic, chemistry, alchemy, patience. A lot of chemistry actually. It is impossible to remember everything Shindler said. But his passion is contagious, he is really interested in experimenting and continuing that process.

Usually what he does is that he asks people in the street if he can make a portrait of them. He has a portable darkroom, which allows him to process everything on the spot. The preparation of the plate, the photo and the revelation have to be done in a timely manner. And he can give the photo right away, very much like in the 1880's the photographers would work directly in the street and offered the first photographic portraits to the general public.

