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Catharine Clark Gallery, San Francisco, CA
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What Solo Exhibition: Anthony Discenza: *Everything Will Probably Work Out Ok*

When..... 7 January – 13 February 2010

Reception..... Saturday, 9 January, 5–7pm

Where Catharine Clark Gallery, 150 Minna Street, San Francisco, CA 94105, USA www.cclarkgallery.com

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San Francisco, CA: Catharine Clark Gallery is pleased to present *Everything Will Probably Work Out Ok*, a new solo exhibition by Oakland-based artist **Anthony Discenza**. The exhibition dates are January 7 through February 13, 2010, with a reception for the artist Saturday, January 9, from 5 to 7pm. This is Discenza's second solo exhibit with the gallery and



Video stills from *Charlton Heston: The Future Has Already Been Written*, 2009; digital video

includes new media work in sound, video, and both two- and three-dimensional text-based projects. A catalogue based on the artist's series of street signs will be available.

Long known for his complex, provocative abstractions assembled from appropriated television shows and films, Discenza here largely turns his attention to the relationship between text and image. In a suite of 2D and media-based works, Discenza plays with the deployment of various commonplace textual systems—such as lists, similes, acronyms, and verbal descriptions—as cues for the production of transient scenarios that unfold in the viewer's head. A series

of “street signs”—installed both within the gallery and outside—display mysterious and often humorous messages. A new audio installation, *Untitled (The Effect)*, stitches together material from many different sources to construct a description of a hallucinatory sequence of images assembled from fragments of texts gathered by searching Google for instances of a specific phrase. A disembodied voice narrates this text in which a stream of visual material and situations is described in fluid and continuously shifting terms. Dense and hypnotic, the work is at once an exploration of the limits of textual representation and a meditation on the collapse of meaning in an information-saturated age.

Discenza notes, “As image-based culture expands exponentially, and the technology for the production and manipulation of images grows continually cheaper and more powerful. I feel, at least on a personal level, a certain exhaustion of vision setting in. As a result, I've been drawn more and more to non-visual source material. I'm very interested in text—in part because I've always drawn so much inspiration from literature—and specifically for the way that text can act as a kind of score, enticing the mind to construct things that don't exist anywhere else. I'm curious about that peculiar fluidity of something experienced primarily in the imagination, and I'm fascinated by the way a small fragment of something—maybe only a few sentences, or even just a phrase—can, under the right conditions, conjure an entire narrative. For me, there's a sort of quiet subversion in this appeal to a transient, internal viewing experience, at a time when it seems that imagination itself is becoming increasingly colonized by external structures.”

Anthony Discenza has a graduate degree in Film and Video from California College of Art and an undergraduate degree in Studio Art from Wesleyan University. His work is directed by a preoccupation with interrupting the flow of information in various formats, and while it has been primarily video-based, it has also taken the form of other media such as computer generated sound, text, and imagery. Discenza's works



Installation view of *A LAPSE INTO THE ROMANTIC*, 2009; vinyl on aluminum, 40 x 30 inches

have been presented widely nationally and internationally, including at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, the Australian Center for the Moving Image, the Whitney Museum of American Art, the Getty Center and the University of California, Berkeley Art Museum & Pacific Film Archive. His work has garnered critical attention in *Artforum*, *Artweek*, and *ArtReview*, among other publications. He lives and works in Oakland, California and had his first exhibition at Catharine Clark Gallery in 2004.

Gallery Hours Change: In response to the increased demand for the gallery to keep longer hours, the gallery is now open Tuesday through Saturday from 11am until 6pm. The gallery staff is present at the gallery beginning at 10am for private appointments and meetings. Appointments to view any exhibition prior to or after public hours are welcome. Additionally the gallery regularly participates in the San Francisco Art Dealers Association's "First Thursday" on the first Thursday of each month from 6–8pm.

About Catharine Clark Gallery: Established in 1991, Catharine Clark Gallery presents the work of contemporary artists. A wide range of media is represented in the gallery program with an emphasis on content-driven work that challenges both the traditional use of materials and formal aesthetics. The gallery is the first in San Francisco with a dedicated Media Room. Exhibitions are hosted on a six week schedule and generally feature one or two solo artist exhibitions and media room installations. The gallery also regularly participates in national and international art fairs in Miami, New York, London, and Brussels, among other cities. Housed in a former 1920s farming equipment warehouse, redesigned by Los Angeles-based designer Tim Campbell in 2007, the gallery is situated among numerous arts-related landmark buildings in San Francisco's Yerba Buena Neighborhood; it is adjacent to the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art (SFMOMA), the Museum of the African Diaspora (MOAD), and is housed on the ground floor of the same historical building as SF Camerawork. For more information, please visit www.cclarkgallery.com or email info@cclarkgallery.com. Visit cclarkgallery.blogspot.com for up-to-date information about exhibitions and reviews.

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