

Wednesday, August 27th 2008

BEST IN SHOW

Lia Halloran: 'Dark Skate'

By R.C. Baker

Ever cocksure, Picasso famously once used a flashlight to draw a Minotaur in thin air; captured in a long-exposure photograph, his sinuous gesture convincingly manifests the mythical beast. A more earthbound creature—the California skateboarder—becomes a ghostly abstraction in Lia Halloran's recent large-scale color photographs. As befits L.A.'s peculiar collision of the slacker and type-A ethos, smooth imagery emerges from intense bursts of energy. Halloran straps a light to her wrist and then glides through drained pools, concrete pipes, and backyard ramps; the bright squiggles, arcs, and curls that result both contrast and complement the gnarly trees and industrial dead zones in the nocturnal backgrounds. This combo of drawing, performance, and documentary captures SoCal's dark vitality and its ragged languor.

July 16-22, 2008

SWEET SHOT

Lia Halloran shreds the streets of L.A. for her art

By Angela Ashman

Skateboard photography has long been the stuff of sweaty boys flying over stairs and grinding rails. But L.A.-based artist and skater Lia Halloran's new solo photography exhibition, *Dark Skate*, turns the gritty genre into something quite beautiful to look at. From the L.A. riverbed to the streets of downtown, Halloran—who has an MFA in painting and printing from Yale—shreds the pavement with a bike light strapped to her wrist, while photographer Meredyth Wilson captures her movements using time-lapse photography. The results are what Halloran calls "self-portraits," even though all you can see are the white trails of light zigzagging across the urban landscape. Provided she steers clear of all the occupational hazards of her chosen art (like broken bones and run-ins with the police), Halloran will be in attendance at tonight's opening party from 6 to 8 p.m.