

# San Francisco Chronicle

## ‘Lightspace’ a nod to Southern California

by Kenneth Baker

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**Lightspace in Oakland:** "Lightspace," the title of a group show at Chandra Cerrito in Oakland, sounds a deliberate echo of "the art of light and space" long associated with Southern California.

Uncertainty as to what one sees - whether perception or the things perceived change, or both - connects new work here by Keira Kotler, Kana Tanaka, Amy Ho and Cathy Cunningham-Little.

Cunningham-Little presents boxed neon pieces that can make viewers wonder whether they are hallucinating. Though not unappealing aesthetically, these objects under close study develop an almost intolerable ambiguity - intolerable because it undermines the eye's customary confidence.

Seeing an image of Ho's piece before I visited the show, I wondered how it could possibly fit into the gallery's tight space. Answer: by being pure illusion.

On one wall of a tiny room painted entirely white, Ho projects an image of a white corridor that apparently curves away toward bright daylight.

Against expectations, knowing that it is a complete fabrication does not dispel the work's hypnotic effect. It gives waking reality to a dream that most have had at some time of discovering a previously hidden or unnoticed room or attic in our living space.

Ho smartly connects with this level of somatic fantasy and with a lineage of light works made by James Turrell, Michael Asher, Bruce Nauman and others.

Lightspace: Works in various media by four Bay Area artists. Through Sept. 24. Chandra Cerrito Contemporary Art, 480 23rd St., Oakland. (510) 260-7494. [www.chandracerittocontemporary.com](http://www.chandracerittocontemporary.com)