



There seems to be a deep, fearful desire to escape - escape from frustrations beyond our control. I think a really wholesome escape, if I may use the term - an escape to run from the crowded city lot to a place where one could plant a garden, raise chickens, pigs and the like - might perhaps add to the national wealth as well as our own good. ...

Security, after all, is on one's mind. I have found, however, a trip to the woods, a week-end or holiday, always gives me a recharging, a rested viewpoint and, on returning to the job in the city, the world's problems do not seem so severe. ...

Conrad E. Meinecke

Cabin Craft and Outdoor Living

The Model Car can refer to many things. Within the context of this show, the model car is not only a common point of origin, but more importantly a somewhat neutral subject matter. Certainly larger issues such as those pertaining to gender or the environment could be evoked, but, it's insignificance in relation to art and the world is what makes the model car an attractive subject.

Having come off nearly a decade of issue oriented art, or art that illustrates the ideas of current theoretical prophets, a non-redeeming or marginal subject matter is refreshing. With the onset of a new political administration, it is evident that an urge for social and political change has reached the mainstream. Perhaps this shift signals a break from art that overtly seeks acceptance and credibility through political correctness, mastery of theory and materials, shock value and ease of consumption.

The model car can also be seen as a metaphor for the simple act of *making*. What compels someone to make a scale model of their own car with "Shrinky-Dinks"? Why build a remote control vehicle that drills holes, or why bury a van in cement only to peel it out? Like products of any hobby activity, many of these works have little outward concern and therefore become conduits for self gratification. Also evident in some pieces is the lack of polish or professionalism. This deliberate naivete' might indicate a distaste for acceptance or at least an affection for the untrained or unprofessional.

It is the sentiment of escape mentioned in the opening passage that interests us as curators. Not a reactionary, extreme disregard for responsibility, but, a sincere (probably too romantic) search for and exploration of some other criteria, subject matter or vision. Certainly, Model Car Round-Up! does not accomplish all of this, however, it is the spirit of these individuals and the direction they face that is inspiring.

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