

Jim Campbell - *Powell Street* - Technological Mediations, Curated by Victoria Mara Heilweil, Art Works Downtown, San Rafael, Sept. 4, 2015. It's a bit difficult to describe this piece, as it consists of a B&W photo transparency, approximately 20x24, a LED panel, and video. The transparency is mounted in front of the LED panel. The transparency softens and blurs the LED lighting so it appears to be lighted by a uniform light. The back lighting produces a wonderful range of blacks, grays, and whites. The LED panel also projects a video of blurry, vague pedestrians as faint black shadows traversing the Powell Street Bart station. The still photo and the video have the exact same vantage point. The video is a minute or two long and loops continuously.

The vantage point is on the lower level in the plaza area outside the station. The escalator is seen on the left and the opening into the station is seen on the right. In between are the walls of the lower level plaza. The video of pedestrians is subtle. Looking at the work quickly the video could be missed. There isn't a crowd of pedestrians, only a few dozen. While the escalator remains stationary it is a bit otherworldly to see vague shadowy figures and legs riding up and down the still image.

The artists states that the detail image can be analyzed by the viewer while the blurry video is "felt" by the viewer. On a more abstract level, the photograph is of one moment in time while the video is of a string of moments. Looking at this work is analogous to studying an abandoned city like Chernobyl. We see their physical structures (buildings, etc.) but the people themselves are only shadows. While the Chernobyl buildings and the Bart station remain relatively unchanged over time, people are forever moving and changing.

