

## 'Strobe' shines light on photographer's vision

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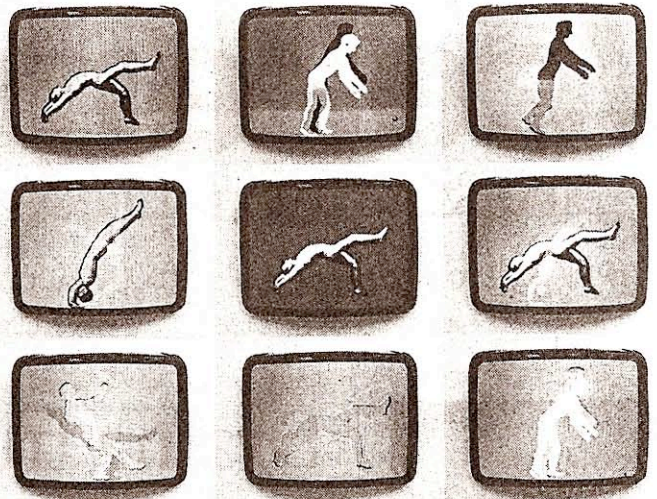
Video artist Ray Rapp brings Eadweard Muybridge into the 21st century in "Strobe," an installation at O'HT Gallery. Muybridge was

the photographer who documented motion in still images in the 1870s and 1880s. Rapp, a New York artist probably best known for making work out of the hardware of television sets, has digitally animated some of Muybridge's projects. It's as if he's pushed a "go" button on the stop-motion photographs.

Images of a galloping horse appear on nine screens. A red strobe effect sets in, pulsing between a red horse on a black background and a black horse on red, sometimes so quickly the animal takes on an eerie glow. Each monitor starts at a different time. The rhythm of the strobe changes, the images shift. At the end, the moni-

tors show bright, blank colors, turning the panels into a Modernist grid with Op Art tones. Then another Muybridge image appears: a tumbling acrobat, and a black-and-white strobe effect blinks in.

Dizzying as it sounds, "Strobe" is an oddly comforting piece, with its emphasis on rhythm of light, motion, and composition. In addition to the horse and acrobat, we see a boxer and an elephant go through their paces; when they're not lost in the flash of the strobe, the grainy, black-and-white photographs reveal details of their subjects, and the endearingly awkward repetition of their movements. Rapp's crisp installation balances the commercial slickness of today's video with source material from one of the progenitors of motion pictures. It makes a satisfying circle.



An acrobat tumbles across the screens in video artist Ray Rapp's "Strobe" exhibit at O'HT Gallery.