

"More Real? Art in the Age of Truthiness"

SITE Santa Fe 1606 Paseo de Peralta July 8, 2012–
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Curated by Elizabeth Armstrong

This exhibition is inspired by the epistemological acrobatics of our day's political discourse—think birthers, Bosnian sniper fire, and the notorious disclaimer "Not intended to be a factual statement." Selections include An-My Lê's "documentary" photographs of Vietnam combat reenactments, the Yes Men's phony *New York Times* edition that prematurely announced the end of the Iraq war, and Joel Lederer's scenic Second Life confections, among some sixty works from the past twelve years that mix together actual facts to concoct credible fictions or, conversely, attempt to tease out the real from overtly pretend information. Whether the show's premise—anchored by and titled after Stephen Colbert's infamous Bush-era neologism—differs meaningfully from 1980s notions of relativism remains an open question, but the essays in the hefty catalogue by Tom Gunning, Norman Klein, and Carrie Lambert-Beatty, among others, will no doubt clarify the distinction.