Art Beats

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Film, photo exhibit explores notions of time, narrative and meaning

Stop!

Now what, you ask? It doesn't matter actually. That moment you asked "now what?" was the important one.

Chen Tamir, a student curator of Bard College's Center for Curatorial Studies in New York, put together an exhibition called Stutter and Twitch at the Justina M. Barnicke Gallery. Located in Hart House at the University of Toronto, the exhibit allows us to explore that moment.

The small collection of works by various artists offers a powerful challenge to our notions of time, narrative and what is meaningful. The film and photography exhibition captures the essence of that essential question that resounds from our youth culture today: now what? Each piece recreates the moment in the middle of that thought, creating a stasis that stands in opposition to the chaotic perpetual forward motion of time that relentlessly drives us all.

In Adad Hannah's Stills, it would appear that you are watching a photograph. You may wonder why a video monitor would be used to showcase the photo when a frame would have sufficed, until you realize that the wind is blowing the yellow tape in the photograph.

Your initial impression of complete stillness is shattered. As you continue watching, you notice that, in fact, most of the photograph is moving – the only things that don't appear to be in full motion are the main subjects. Thus you are left standing there, waiting for the subjects to complete their actions.

The concept behind the exhibition is much more complex than what the casual eye would pick up at first glance. Visitors should pick up a catalogue at the porter's office to help them navigate the gallery before heading inside. Ultimately, this exhibit is a must see for those with the time to go take a careful look.

- *Stutter and Twitch is on exhibit until June 29, Mon-Fri, 11 - 5 p.m., and Sat, 1 - 4 p.m.*