

## DAVID TRAUTRIMAS



[David Trautrimas' "The Spyfrost Project"](#) is featured in the December issue of ARTnews.

By: Richard Chang

*Toronto-based artist David Trautrimas has a fascination with space-age design, from sci-fi movie sets to 1950s household appliances. Taking images of such familiar objects as vacuum cleaners and refrigerators, he alters them digitally, collaging together shiny chrome parts to create architectural structures that look not quite futuristic, but like some past idea of how the future will appear. There's clearly an element of kitsch nostalgia to them. For the eleven ink-jet prints in this exhibition, "The Spyfrost Project," Trautrimas placed these imaginary Cold War edifices in desolate locations.*

*"Seismic Conduction Tower" (2009) resembles a phonograph balancing on a clothes iron. Its placement in a rough gray landscape gives it an industrial appearance, with the threat of surveillance. "Whirl Surge Generator" (2010) is a sleek silver tower, standing in the middle of a snow-covered expanse, with a hint of foliage on the horizon. The gray, lifeless sky provides a backdrop of foreboding. "The Radiant Proliferator" (2009) appears to be a mix between a fan, an eggbeater, and a bunker. The structure is nestled among orange and rust-colored rocks, recalling the American Southwest. Indeed, many of the landscapes were shot by Trautrimas around Los Alamos, home of the Manhattan Project.*

*Throughout the show, Trautrimas provided stark yet creative combinations of silvery structures and vast, unpopulated landscapes. An observant viewer could take pleasure in the tiny details, such as a perfectly integrated door and a glint of reflected green in an expanse of silver. Blending humor and terror, the work renders the Cold War era as a time when bold esthetics went hand in hand with a prevailing sense of menace.*

**Please contact the gallery for more information or images**

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