



BARRY KITE

I reacted to what was already out there, the appropriated images of the world. I need something to begin with, and then I can manipulate and recycle it into something totally new.

Barry Kite

There are no rules in the world of Barry Kite, no subject off limits. Kite employs his acute mind, his artist's eye, and his unflinching sense of humor to create collage-like lithographs that poke fun at—or at least question—the icons of art, history, science, politics and industry. He uses found imagery and embellishes each work by applying his own photographic and hand-coloring techniques.

While Kite's mosaic magic requires a certain amount of sleight of hand, the process of attaining his final image is a fascinating and vital part of his creative act. The results are strangely beautiful images that bring together incongruous elements into startlingly powerful visual statements, like the play on a Wyeth masterwork with "*Christina Removed for Observation*" or Suerat with "*Sunday Afternoon, Looking for the Car*". In his book *Sunday Afternoon, Looking for the Car: The Aberrant Art of Barry Kite*, the artist defines his work as "that which strays from the right, normal, or usual course."

After receiving his B.F.A. in film from UCLA, Chicago-born Kite spent the next five years traveling overseas. Returning to the San Francisco Bay area, he wrote and performed his own style of surreal poetry in local coffee houses. Kite says, "My poetry was like my art is now. Any way to wake [people] up, anything to get their attention."

Nothing is safe about the Aberrant Art of Barry Kite; through it, he has declared a war against all iconography, art, photography, current events and celebrity. The idea is to make the viewer really look, not just see. Ideally, he wants viewers to have an intellectual as well as an emotional experience—to use both parts of their brains simultaneously.

Fascinated with the aesthetics of making art and challenged by the possibilities of art approaching the imagery of poetry, Kite's style of social and political parody via the "re-positioning" of art historical and contemporary media imagery has won him several art competition awards and placed his work in numerous private and corporate collections.

Jack
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