

Switch on the Light  
by Chistina Kline

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Most impressive is an installation by Oliver Smith entitled "Fractured Gaze" which consists of two television monitors slightly elevated from the ground, replaying scratchy, dark images of an,ominous figure, moving closer in slow motion. The accompanying low-speed sound into a deep, nightmarish murmur. Smith explains that both the sound segments and the digitized video imagery "have been stretched from seconds into minutes. Three sets of images and the soundtrack play and replay in combinations that never repeat themselves the exact same way twice." And behind the monitors, projected on the wall, we watch mannequins - one a small boy and one a woman whose contorted limbs creep lifelessly, along their bodies. As we become increasingly obsessed and mesmerized by the eerily homicidal images, we are also overwhelmed by an instinct to escape from the small curtained room. Smith succeeds in fully communicating with us and, thus, controlling our gaze.