

Calendar

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

By **HOLLY MYERS**
Special to The Times

Moving Pictures: The picture taken out the window of a moving car is probably one of the most common photographic clichés in existence. It is also one of the most patently disappointing. However spectacular the landscape, however thrilling the sensation of driving, however far you lean out the window, the resulting snapshot is not likely to capture the fervor of the moment because the vantage point is always fixed in the same awkward position.

It's difficult to say whether the commonness—and common failure—of this format helps or hurts **Brian Moss'** photographs, which are all taken from moving cars. On one hand, doing something that nearly every non-artist has experience doing makes his work all the more susceptible to the "my kid could do that" brand of criticism—not necessarily a bad thing, but generally a risk worth avoiding. On the other hand, there is poetry hidden within the persistent banality of the format—in the giddy experience of motion, wind and landscape—that might be revealed through an intelligent manipulation of that format.

Ultimately, Moss' photographs, on view at Craig Krull Gallery, rise to the latter challenge. Moss takes the photographs randomly and probably in large quantities, then identifies their value as individual images once they are developed, shifting the act of composition from the camera to the proof sheet.

The result is a modest selection of color images that are both spontaneous and elegantly refined. In the pictures, Moss transforms familiar terrain—the streets of Los Angeles—into an understated meditation on issues of chance, motion and space. He is less concerned with the objects in the landscape than the nature of the expanse that surrounds them.

Thus, some of the best images are taken up almost entirely by the chalky Southern Californian sky, with only the edge of a building, a blurry guardrail or a blank billboard in a lower corner of the image. In separating these sorts of eloquent details from the profuse clutter of our urban landscape, Moss reconfigures banality into poetry.

● *Craig Krull Gallery, Bergamot Station, 2525 Michigan Ave., Santa Monica, (310) 828-6410, through April 7. Closed Sunday and Monday.*

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