

I N L U C I D D R E A M I N G

What lucid dreams always demand is a recognition that what's happening is *real*, in a fully body-registered, time-and-space-calibrated way, and in living color. If you're in a lucid dream, in which you know you're "asleep" in a dream while the dream is in progress, you know your here-and-now self is present, and how could that possibly be? Rationalizing the experience is always tentative, impossible, quasi-

I have had lucid dreams about every 18 months or so, and my last was a few weeks ago. I was in Bangkok, in a hotel whose mosaic walls were fully tangible, touchable, an abstract Aztec motif, and my beloved was coming downstairs. Outside, I could see, in the distance, a white Buddhist pagoda. Carlos Castenada suggests that, in lucid dreaming, you should look at your hands, and I did, and my right hand was covered with white gems, with a few angular blue stones. I was real someplace else, but how? Where? Why?

All three of the artists in this show have created elaborate abstractions that are studded with information. Information about what? A very rich universe of possibilities, obviously. Are these images totally imaginative in character, as lucid dreams certainly arguably may be? Or might they be something far more fascinating, a suggestion that our awareness may stretch incomprehensibly to connect with both data and realities beyond what we can make any sense of, right now.

These artworks are lucid dreams, in a way, in which you're looking in on another universe you are assumed to be participating in. The most challenging nature of what's on the walls is their ordered unfamiliarity, a language written in an alien, maybe alienating alphabet, a complex graphic completeness that telegraphs an abstract certainty, or a pure rationality.

This rationality, however, is based somewhere beyond decipherability, so its reason is unverifiable, paradoxical, and possibly illusory. As in lucid dreaming, what appears to be unquestionably convincing, in many respects, is finally following unknown laws. And a viewer here, like any lucid dreamer, is advised to suspend distrust, open one's awareness, senses, and mind as widely as possible – and then see what happens next.

Mahoney

J.W.