

## Introducing...

The Trilogy. A trilogy. A group of three; the span of three. The number 3. And over 3 years...it is a fitting coincidence that I am asked to write an introduction for the *Trilogy of Form* after knowing of Obi Kaufmann and his art interests for three years now. I say “knowing of” Obi for three years because that was when I was first introduced to the SWEE(t)ART zine, where his passion for local artists, promoting art and focusing his “audience” to look at the artwork that he himself was drawn to, lived in print. The Dutch use two words for “knowing:” *kennen* and *weten*. One is an awareness of something, or someone: *kennen*. It is the impersonal, the light touch and the short knowing gained in passing. The other is to know “about” someone, *Ik weet hem*, or I know him. *Weten* is personal, goes deep, is contextual, and can also be used as the intimate, even physical, knowing of someone...it is the heart of the matter, where to know of someone is to share in an experience. The *Trilogy of Form* gives us one such art-focused experience, one such knowing, where layers of *kennen* give rise to what we all seek: a true *weten*.

Three years ago, I looked at the burgeoning Oakland Art Scene through my long-view lens, looked at what the SWEE(t)ART zine was trying to accomplish, looked again at the Scene, and knew then-and-there that in order to keep the fire burning, what was going on in the galleries, in the street and in the backroom-closets where secret projects brewed...somehow, all must be documented, written about, discussed and debated: a DIY historical context created out of dialogue. "WITNESS THE HISTORY OF YOUR OWN MAKING!," I say. Own it. Share it. Promote it. Wrap up what you know in 3 parts; create an event that brings everyone that has touched you, together.

*...and so I realized Obi had known all this as well...but not only was there this knowing, damn it, Obi was making it happen...myself, I thought I had retired from this sort of investment...but the ArtIPromote1 virus was spreading like wildfire... Where are You investing, dear reader?*

To write about the difference between manifesting a vision versus just thinking/wishing for it, weighs so little when left to words. It is in the ‘zine, the interviews, the art walks, and now the SWEE(t)ART drawing gallery—these concrete manifestations of Obi’s self-obsessed promotion of art—which not only brings us closer to the contemporary art of the East Bay, it brings us closer to the vision of Obi, a place where we all can transition from the “knowing of” Obi Kaufmann, to truly knowing about him, and his infectious admiration for Our Local Arts.

A definition of success is that you’re still doing it. Anything Art, that is.

-SB, Oakland, CA - 2009