

THE SHAPE OF WHITE

BY Sergei Sviatchenko

Sviatchenko's title, "The Shape of White," refers to the very slight sliver of white paper revealed when he cuts out forms for his photomontage works. I'm reminded here of experimental writer Donald Barthelme who wrote on the joy of cutting out pictures, which he occasionally used for disjointed and often humorous effects in his fiction. In our era of digital cut and paste, Sviatchenko's work is similarly funny and ironic—he challenges our sense of space. For me his photomontage works, digitally pasted on flat color backgrounds, refer to the blue or green screen sets used in major motion picture making for computer generated imagery, or CGI effects, to be added later. Sviatchenko's comment is on facility: he is capable of digitally pasting his cut-out forms in any context he pleases. His photomural works operate on our sense of space at a different level. Viewing them at some distance is impressive enough, as is the facility for printing at such a grand scale. Viewing them up close, the digital artifacts are revealed and we lose our vantage points. It is almost as if we are within the digital image, capable ourselves of being pasted into some other space at the click of a button.

—Tate Shaw

Sergei Sviatchenko was born in Karkov, Ukraine. He holds a PhD from the Kiev School of Architecture/Meanings of Visual Information. His work has been exhibited throughout Europe, Canada, and the USA. His work has been featured on *i heart photograph* and he was one of five international, emerging artists featured in the launch of London-based *Varoom* Magazine. Sviatchenko has been a Danish citizen since 1990 and in 2002 he founded Senko Studio where he is the curator and producer of projects by emerging or promising artists and photographers.