

# *The Sweetest Gift*

*or Uncanny Gifts: causation, change, motion, contingency, and finitude*

An exhibition by Jeffrey Charles Stanley | JCS

*The Sweetest Gift*<sup>1</sup>, an exhibition of both new and old works, continues an exploration of macro narrative (interlacing multiple narratives while also making connections with history and time). Works are produced in groups of three. Three represents the triangle. The triangle, or trinity, represents the strongest shape.<sup>2</sup> The interconnection of the works alludes to the cosmological argument. Instead of giving weight to one side of the argument over another, these works bridge together science and faith. Yes, there is a strong bias towards pluralism and for seeing the interconnectedness of all people. Yet in our technocrafted world, carefully crafted, bold statements are missing from our dialog.<sup>3</sup> Technology is eroding our complex world into smaller, easily digested half-truths.

Our desire for the instantaneous, for things easy to understand, is eliminating our tolerance, our acceptance to see the differences in one another. History warns that this intolerance leads to destruction. Our response should be actions. Actions in our daily lives, ones that cannot be transmuted through an art object (see these objects as a call to action). You must take action to transform this world.

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Jeffrey Charles Stanley | JCS is an artist whose multidisciplinary practice which incorporates video, postproduction, sound, performance, the internet, and found/made objects presents critical statements about culture, politics, the art world, and mass media. Based on his interest in Situationist and phenomenological aesthetic theories (e.g., media aesthetics), JCS investigates the art and media landscapes with humor and dynamic emotions. Stanley adds, stretches, and re-purposes media until it starts to lose shape, all in an attempt to change the viewer's perception of social archetypes and cultural artifacts.

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1 *The Sweetest Gift (Lovers Rock | 2000)* is also a song by Sade about bringing something (or someone) into this world. The gift of life and the love that follows.

2 See Buckminster Fuller's *Operating Manual for Spaceship Earth* (1968)

3 Or perhaps an open dialog is missing. The carefully crafted statements are present, but not distributed to the masses. Soundbites, news clips, facebook, and other immediate sources cannot give a clear enough picture. Someone must take from philosophy, science, history, and metaphysics to show the bigger picture. See Adrian Piper's *Rationality and the Structure of the Self* (2008, two volumes on metaethics) as an affective example. Ignore your icons, the cult of celebrity, and take the distribution of information into your own hands. The artist's intention here is to become a medium to distribute this information en mass, but this is not an easy task. The viewer must take a step (as art itself has) away from object oriented viewership, towards a philosophical aesthetics. See beyond the objects.