

**TITLE:** *Action/Reaction*

**ARTIST:** Clifton Albergotti

**DATE:** 1988

**SIZE:** Framed 28 1/4" x 22 1/4"; Image: 19 1/2" x 14 1/2"

**MEDIUM:** Archival Inkjet Print

**ACCESSION # :** 2004.6

**Additional Works By Artist In Collection?** YES \_\_\_ **NO:** X



From *Scenes from a Virtual Journey*:  
Clifton Albergotti, *Action/ Reaction*

### ARTIST'S STATEMENT

"My work is about chasing dreams and rendering those elusive visions onto paper. Using the technique of photomontage I can come closer to synthesizing my inner dreams. In translating my impressions so that they are true to my innermost feelings, I strive to communicate the resonance of a deeper emotional chord."

### ARTIST'S BIOGRAPHY

Clifton Albergotti did not start his professional life as a photographer. During his first career as a professor at the University of San Francisco, he taught physics. Eventually he became interested in blending science and the arts or at least narrowing the gap between them. He was able to do so by using photography. He started by making realistic black and white images inspired by Ansel Adams, John Sexton and Don Worth. With inspiration from Michael Kenna and Steve Harper, his work took a new direction. He began to photograph at night.

His work today is about imagined worlds, which lets others see through his point of view. He uses photomontage, a layering of photo images, to blend his imagined world into reality. He often uses "non-traditional photographic formats including large horizontal panels and vertical scrolls." He combines these unusual formats with natural landscapes and human figures to create alternate realities. Albergotti's work has been shown in numerous galleries and museums across the United States.

### MEDIA DESCRIPTION

For *Action/Reaction* Clifton Albergotti uses an archival inkjet print. Such computer-age images are produced from either digital files or film scans. Some editing is done on the computer and a final image is printed out on a printer using high quality paper. An archival inkjet print should last for over 100 years if framed and covered with ultraviolet protective glazing.

### CONTEXTUAL INFORMATION

*Action/Reaction* is part of Clifton Albergotti's series titled *Scenes From a Virtual Journey*. In this series Albergotti says he "...explores the underpinnings of the psyche in a set of imaginary scenes or virtual realities." He uses photographs that he made of coastal California and Alaska and combines them using photomontage, with multiple visual effects, to create a coherent image conveying his impressions.

### GLOSSARY

**Photomontage:** a combination of several images that overlap, similar to a collage, to make one final image.

### RESOURCES

<http://www.albergottiphoto.com/>

[http://www.albergottiphoto.com/  
videoAlert.htm](http://www.albergottiphoto.com/videoAlert.htm)

[http://www.usfca.edu/library/thacher/  
visualinventions/index.html](http://www.usfca.edu/library/thacher/visualinventions/index.html)

Completed Summer 2009: Jenna Mulberry

## Your Virtual Journey: Activity Lesson Plan: K-5

### Session activity:

Clifton Albergotti says that his work is about, “chasing dreams and rendering those elusive visions onto paper.” The photo *Action/Reaction* is from the series *Scenes from a Virtual Journey* in which he uses photomontage to create his own visions. Students will work in the same manner as Albergotti to create their own virtual journey images.

**Objectives:** Students will create images of their own visions utilizing photomontage in a collage form.

**Vocabulary:** **Virtual**—an idea or thing that is not tangible due to it being generated by a computer.

**Materials:** magazines, photos, glue, scissors.

**Activity Procedures:** Have the students look at *Action/Reaction* by Clifton Albergotti. Have them identify and describe the parts and relationships within the photo. Discuss Albergotti’s vision. What is the action? What is the reaction? Compare and contrast Albergotti’s vision with reality. Have them look at additional works from the series *Scenes from a Virtual Journey*. Require each student to write a paragraph describing his/her own inner vision. Ask the students where they think Albergotti took the separate photos of his montages—what he actually saw in the places when he took the photos. Have each student look through magazines to find images to combine in a photomontage, one that describes his/her vision. You might suggest that the students find images in pairs like Albergotti, to show an “action” and “reaction,” although you may also want to stress that visions are personal and encourage the students to create their photomontages following their personal visions, whatever these may be. Ask the students to distill their paragraphs into titles for their montages.



From *Scenes from a Virtual Journey*:  
Clifton Albergotti, *Edge of the World*

### Sunshine State Standard:K-5

**Stand B:** Creation and Communication

**Standard 1:** Student understands that subject matter used to create unique works of art can come from personal experience, observation, imagination, and themes.

### Sunshine State Standard: 6-12

**Strand D:** Aesthetic and Critical Analysis

**Standard 2:** Student understands critical and aesthetic statements in terms of historical reference while researching

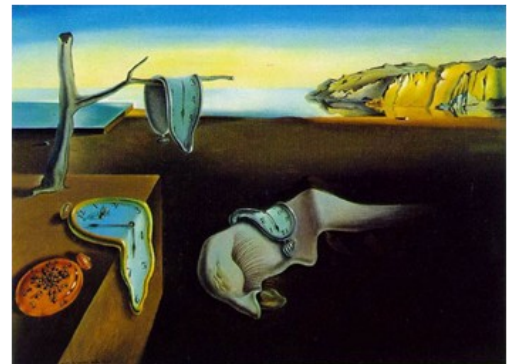
## A Surrealist Experience : Art History Lesson Plan 6-12

**Session Activity:** Clifton Albergotti incorporates dreams and the subconscious into his photographs. This use of the subconscious was a large part of the Surrealist approach. Students will research the Surrealist movement and relate tenets of this art movement to Albergotti’s work.

**Objectives:** Students will learn about the Surrealist art movement, identify surrealist influences in a contemporary work, and experience a Surrealist exercise or approach.

**Vocabulary Surrealism**—An art movement that started in the 1920’s. The works display a sense of surprise and odd combinations of objects.

**Materials** paper, pens or pencils



Salvador Dali, *The Persistence of Memory* 1931



Man Ray, *Rayogram* 1966

**Activity Procedures:** Students will look at Clifton Albergotti’s series *Scenes from a Virtual Journey* and discuss ways his images can be related to the Surrealist art movement. Show several Surrealist works (i.e. Salvador Dali, *The Persistence of Memory*; Man Ray, *Rayograph*..) Ask them to break into groups to research Surrealist works. Within their groups students will identify a number of characteristics of the Surrealist movement. For example, Surrealist work aims to reveal the reality of the inner vision or the subconscious rather than outward reality. Or Surrealist works incorporate odd combinations of objects (Dali positioned melting clocks in the desert with ants). The students will verbally (or in writing) analyze Albergotti’s work with these characteristics in mind.

While looking at Albergotti’s *Action/Reaction* photo the students will experience a free writing assignment. Direct them to write anything that comes to mind about the photo with no reservations. Tell them to just write, to allow any thoughts, memories, or observations to flow from the mind to the hand to the paper. This exercise demonstrates one Surrealist method for exploring subject matter, a process potentially to be used later by the student in a search for subject matter for his/her own imagery. The process allows the subconscious to take over.