

# *The Purpose of Shame*

*Lisa Prentice*

*April 23 - May 21 2005*

*Opening Reception  
April 22, 2005 8pm*



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## Lisa Prentice *The Purpose of Shame*

Durkheim, especially, implied that "...what holds a society together---the "glue" of solidarity--- and [Marx implied that] what mobilizes conflict--- the energy of mobilized groups---are emotions"

Lisa Prentice's installation *The Purpose of Shame* fails from the get go. By drawing on emotional principle, she operates outside of critical protection. Using materials salvaged from the garbage and images from her notebooks that were never meant for public view, Prentice attempts a supra rational (or perhaps just a non-rational ) dialogue with the modernist object(ive). Prentice's suggestion that "I'll go first" into the black-lit coke shack, attempts to reassert the galvanizing power of emotion that classical theory has sidelined, but that children and the stoned understand so completely. Frustrated by critical discourse's devotion to reason even as reason fails, Prentice instead looks to sociology and non-classical psychotherapy as forms that have long upheld the importance of emotions and their transformative effects in social and political practice.

Fascism has and continues to successfully utilize emotion as a tool to power, even as liberal devotion to the cult of reason allows this resource to go to waste.