

Meliksetian MB Briggs

ARTslant

Artists' Desks

by Char Jansen

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Todd Gray
Los Angeles, CA

Funny, an artist's desk brings to mind the impression of white collar activity. Rightly or wrongly, I like to think of time spent working out visual and conceptual puzzles as activities better spent on the table rather than the desk. Blue collar, lightly starched. I start the day using a computer to cull through my exhaustive archive of Michael Jackson photographs taken in the '80s when I worked as his personal photographer, then I review my archive of images made in Ghana where I maintain a studio. The computer

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is my tabula rasa, allowing me unrestrained travel through multiple archives, imagined and real. The selected images are printed out, framed, and then collaged together as low relief sculpture. On top of my five-by-eight-foot table is a milky white gridded cutting matte, large enough for my assistant and I to work without bumping into each other while cutting photos and attaching frames together, while listening to Sun Ra, MC5, Funkadelic, Fela Kuti, PiL, J Dilla, Stooges, Miles Davis and, these days, David Bowie (RIP).

Todd Gray is presented by Meliksetian | Briggs, Booth D16, at Art Los Angeles Contemporary, January 28–31.

—As told to Char Jansen