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OCTOBER 12– NOVEMBER 3 2007

SCOTT MILES

"After spending some time in this city I have come across a society calling themselves the 'Historical Futurist Society'. Upon first hearing their name, I took them to be an appreciation group for the Italian Futurists of the early twentieth century.

They are not.

They are a society that makes use of predictive reasoning in a non-linear manner.

PAINTINGS

They believe that human experience is a network of points that link and intersect across time.

Consequently, this curious group contend that time can be compressed and space can be folded. Memory and imagination become a kind of time machine. Space becomes simultaneously real and mythic.

Our perceived world changes through passage, similar to the manner in which we view an item in a mirror. The view is not the item actually in the mirror. Rather, it is the item that has passed through the mirror and back out, into the viewers' eye. It seems like a theatre, or a heterotopia. What at first does not seem plausible may be seen as possible.

They feel that if we can effectively understand the perspective of a past moment then it stands to reason that we should be able to view the present from the perspective of that past. Their curious thinking then follows, that, through memory and imagination, it should be possible to see the future.

The perspective of history is always looking over the horizon. The verticality of memory is more their style, an accumulation of time, like the storage room of a museum that can hold the curiosities of centuries in a set of drawers. There is more than just dust that escapes from a freshly opened tomb.

A sign posted on the societies' wall reads: "The future is under no obligation to mimic the past".

It made me laugh to learn how old this quote was and to think of how long it would remain here. If the future does not relive the past it certainly does a good job of copying it."

Excerpt from a letter by Michel Marker, 1894.