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## AROUND THE GALLERIES



**ATTITUDE:** Brandon Morse's "Burning Bush" is a digitally animated video that is politically barbed. It is among three video projections that are part of Morse's Los Angeles solo debut. d.e.n. contemporary art

### Illuminating digital video

By Christopher Knight, Times Staff Writer

Washington, D.C.-based artist **Brandon Morse** has titled his appealing L.A. solo debut "Turbulent State," which aptly characterizes this moment in time. He gets even more specific in "Burning Bush," a digitally animated video that is both oracular and politically barbed.

The three video projections at d.e.n. contemporary show abstract forms in states of perpetual transition. "1 ppm" — parts per million, presumably — is a light, airy, computer-generated white blob, which hovers in dark space, casts an illusionistic shadow and changes shape like diaphanous fabric held aloft in an unseen breeze. "Sentinel" essentially multiplies that form by

five.

In both, the perpetual flux is endowed with a sense of interminable imminence — as if something is about to happen but never does. As you watch the hypnotizing forms flutter and morph, "something" is already always happening, a fact that endows the work with a Zen-like sense of enlightenment. The glowing forms become gigantic representations of the tiny flickering pixels of light from which they're made.

"Burning Bush" is a floor-to-ceiling diptych in which mirror images each show five blood-red square pillars lined up across a black field. The top of one, then another and eventually all five

begin to bubble and billow, a deformation that gets steadily larger and devours its own form. Finally the entire visual field is engulfed in rippling red liquidity.

Without describing the World Trade Center towers, "Burning Bush" evokes the events of 9/11 and after. Running on a continuous loop, with an audio soundtrack like pulsing sonar, the six-minute projection develops a cyclical rhythm of loss and redemption that is by turns horrific, illuminating and consoling.

In a rear gallery, Morse also shows a pair of digital works on flat-panel monitors. They suggest computer screen-savers as a surprising source of inspiration for the marvelous visual koans in the front room.

**d.e.n. contemporary**, 6023 Washington Blvd., Culver City, (310) 559-3023, through May 26. Closed Sundays and Mondays. [www.dencontemporaryart.com](http://www.dencontemporaryart.com).