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Going with the flow charts

The DeCordova's Annual Exhibition hits the mark, and so does Bruce Bemis at the BCA

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AT THE BOSTON CENTER FOR THE ARTS' MILLS GALLERY, Bruce Bemis's majestic and sensual installation "Reciprocal Illumination" is a reminder of the poetic potential of video. On entering the gallery, you hear the sound of the ocean accompanying a hazy rising and falling of foamy, celery-green waves on the first screen. Eventually, the swirling abstraction gives birth to the black, rubber-clad upper body of a surfer whom you see from behind. Another wave rises; the surfer disappears and then reappears as the wave subsides. The camera is close to both water and man; you're out with him in the surf, taking in the sea. Beyond the screen, the cavernous space of the gallery is almost empty and yet feels fully occupied, since the walls and the ceiling are alive with rippling patterns of shadow and light. An examination of the two video projectors on the floor and the giant glass Christmas ornaments beside them that have been made the projectors' screens reveals footage of an incoming tide. By using bright glass balls as the surface of his two videos, Bemis remakes the ebb and flow of the ocean into a light show of unpredictable shapes. You won't want to leave.