

## Rico Gatson @ Ronald Feldman

For the final show of Ronald Feldman's 30th anniversary year, the gallery proved its vitality with an exhibition of videos by young artist Rico Gatson. Gatson, a standout in last summer's popular group show "Freestyle" in Harlem, delves into the Hollywood archives for his material. Using video editing software, he selects films as diverse as *Alien* and *Superfly* and then subjects them to an editing process in which a quarter of the film screen is mirrored, resulting in an intense, kaleidoscopic effect. The showstopper is *Departure*, in which Gatson condenses a scene from the movie *Alien* into an intense series of pans and zooms featuring the determined but petrified protagonist as she exits the exploding ship. Another highlight, *Jungle, Jungle* presents two sequences of human



**RICO GATSON, *Departure*, 2001.**  
Video still.

sacrifice from the 1933 classic film *King Kong*. Gatson maintains a dual focus on the representation of African Americans in film, and on the many faces of fear. Whether the videos feature a giant raging gorilla, or a gruesome alien, the result is a mini-lexicon of terror that forces viewers to confront their own fears — a task that is never more relevant than now.

(Merrily Kerr)