

the village VOICE

Best in Show

Recommendations by Robert Shuster



'Disciplined Spontaneity'

Gently quirky, this group show of 12 artists plays as a series of teasers for multilayered projects or intriguing oeuvres. Composer Emanuel Pimenta presents two examples of his complex virtual scores—three-dimensional structures, mathematically formed from real or fictional data, that visually describe his eerie mixes of synthesized and acoustic sounds. Psychedelic collages, blooming with shapes and colors, are excerpted from the illustrated novel-in-progress of 20th-century history by the *Voice's* R.C. Baker, while another sequence of collages, joyously Fluxus-like (clippings, photographs, sketches), comes from an ongoing collaboration between Laura Bell and poet Ian Ganassi in a form of Exquisite Corpse, the art game of exchange and addition. Jackie Matisse, renowned for her kites, does something similar with melancholy boxes of objets trouvés.

In sculpture, Marcia Grostein conjures the erotics of furniture with her delicate chairs, whose tree-like legs and frames are charmingly entangled. And Pilyun Ahn has fashioned a new kind of eye candy: minimalist reliefs of pyramidal shapes modeled on topography and molded (surprise) in specially preserved and aromatic chocolate. But the most unlikely piece here might be *Good Morning, Mr. Orwell 1983*, a rare pairing of Joseph Beuys and John Cage, each with a sketch of chaotic lines merging toward a sense of order. *Zone: Contemporary Art, 41 W 57th St, 212-255-2177. Through February 20*