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Review/**Art**

By MICHAEL BRENSON

Curtis Mitchell

*Lang & O'Hara Gallery
568 Broadway (at Prince Street)
Through Nov. 18*

Curtis Mitchell is one of the young artists trying to bring to abstraction a

new realism. He is one of the young artists working in a realm between the found and the sculptured object, between Formalism and Surrealism. He has his own grittiness and wit.

For this, his first gallery show, he has made use of situations and events that people do not normally think about. For example, instead of shaking sand off a beach towel, he has made it cake in abstract patterns. He spilled coffee on a tablecloth and hung it on a wall as an abstract painting. Another abstraction consists of black hair clotted and rising off a braided oval rug like clumps of wind-blown hair on a balding head.

Mr. Mitchell also built decaying walls or doors in which the cracks may resemble the lines in a Pollock "drip." And on the floor at the entrance to the exhibition he has placed what looks like a rectangular chunk of burned gallery floor in which the charring between the boards is part of the design. Mr. Mitchell's timing and formal intelligence will remain. His gentleness may not.

