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Art in Review

By ROBERTA SMITH
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"The Curio Shop" Thread Waxing Space 476 Broadway (at Broome Street) SoHo Through July 11

This group show by more than 40 artists, organized by Saul Ostrow, lives up to its name. It is installed with all the grace and space of a secondhand junk store, and it reflects the current obsession among younger artists with the odd (if not the morbid), the discarded and the overwrought. The presiding deities here are Alfonso Ossorio (1916-1990), represented by three of his chock-a-block found-object reliefs, and Paul Thek (1933-1988), whose Minimalist plexiglass forms containing trompe l'oeil cross sections of human flesh have lately achieved a kind of cult status.

Among the other works that stand out are Daniel Wiener's small, colorful abstract dolls, which hang suggestively from the ceiling; Joyce Pensato's energetic charcoal drawings, with their somewhat sinister distortions of Mickey Mouse and Donald Duck; Rick Franklin's inventive little wall sculptures, made from rubber bands, and Jeanne Silverthorne's oozing abstract sculptures. The efforts of Curtis Mitchell, Sara Morris, Michael Jenkins, Maura Sheehan, Glenn Seator and Guillaume Bijl are also worth locating. In all, this is not a good-looking show, nor is it an especially good one, but it is roughly informative, and too big to miss.

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