

relish!now!

A SPICY MIX OF THINGS TO DO IN NORTHWEST NORTH CAROLINA

Sunday, September 30, 2007

By Tom Patterson

JOURNAL COLUMNIST

Internal and external organs and organisms

Back in Winston-Salem, 33 pieces from Adrienne Outlaw's "Fecund Series II" make for a somewhat unusual viewing experience at Five & 40rty. Unusual because each one requires being looked at from two different perspectives to be fully seen.

Referencing the biology of the human body and other aspects of nature, most of these works are phallic or breast-like forms that protrude from the gallery walls at various heights. Except for a corner-mounted group of eight identical black plastic breast forms, each piece is unique by virtue of its size, shape and surface materials or markings. Their colors and some of their other material qualities evoke associations with mammalian organs and bodily fluids - skin, viscera, bones, hair, blood, milk, etc.

On viewing these sculptures up close, it becomes obvious that the outer tip of each one is a clear glass or plastic lens, through which viewers can peer with one eye, as if looking through a microscope. Each piece looks very different from that perspective than it does from a few feet away. The interiors of these pieces - each as distinctive as its exterior - visually extend their range of organic references. A few of the forms contain mirrors, and the eight black plastic ones contain as many different video loops of vastly magnified microorganisms in motion.

Outlaw has written that her work "explores bioethics and the dichotomy between emotional and intellectual thought in an increasingly technological world." Viewers won't necessarily make that connection on their own, but most will pick up on the dichotomy between internal and external space that's integral to the series. Bioethical implications aside, these are mysteriously compelling pieces.

| *Adrienne Outlaw's "Fecund Series II" is on view through Oct. 20 at Five & 40rty, 541 N. Trade St. For more information, call 336-724-2474.*

Article found at:

http://www.journalnow.com/servlet/Satellite?c=MGArticle&cid=1173352928025&pagename=WSJ/MGArticle/WSJ_RelishArticle&path=!entertainment!visualarts!&s=1037645508998