

[Click to Print](#)[SAVE THIS](#) | [EMAIL THIS](#) | [Close](#)

Posted on Sun, Jul. 19, 2009

Galleries: Half-chaotic, half-refined Trecartin reflects Vox show

By Edith Newhall

For The Inquirer

The wait is over. Philadelphia-based artist Ryan Trecartin's legions of admirers can finally check out the works that he and local gallery owner Larry Mangel selected for Vox V, the fifth of Vox Populi Gallery's always eagerly anticipated annual exhibitions of emerging artists.

Trecartin's penchant for the frenetic and ad hoc (he has an exhibition of his riotous, gender-bending video installations at the Fabric Workshop & Museum through the summer) and Mangel's more refined taste for shapely, well-made objects (he sells artists' multiples and puts on small exhibitions at his Old City store/gallery, Cerealart), can be discerned in equal measure throughout this annual.

It's an enormous show, even by Vox standards. Works by 51 artists from all over the country take up much of the available space in Vox's lobby, four galleries, and hallway. The exhibition's tone - half-chaotic, half-composed - makes itself felt the moment you enter Vox's lobby and see Dan Haddigan-Dreamboat's installation *Two Artifacts* - a wall-hung sheet of shredded acetate, photocopies scattered on the floor, and a found stone sculpture, among other things - across the room from Emily Ann Bowser's flawlessly constructed *Untitled*, a towering, tentacled, stuffed-fabric sculpture that brings Louise Bourgeois to mind.

The placement of Alexander D'Agostino's sculpture *I'm Still Here*, a human-size,

7/19/2009

Galleries: Half-chaotic, half-refine...

papier-mache, rabbitlike figure lying on the floor with a large pile of paintings on paper sitting on its midsection - looking like a Chuck Jones cartoon character flattened by a truck - near Daniel Rosenbaum's introspective painted papier-mache abstract wall relief *Embryo*, also struck me as a conversation on aesthetics between Trecartin and Mangel.

The rest of the galleries and the hallway continue the jurors' dialogue, but in an increasingly subtle manner, as perhaps was intended. Some of the more remarkable pieces here include Sarah Knouse's sculpture of a crawling woman cast in resin-covered string; Jeanine Woollard's color photographs of improbable studio set-ups; Jaime Treadwell's oil-on-panel paintings of creepy pool parties that look like something Hieronymous Bosch would have thought up if he'd worked in South Beach; Daniel Petraitis' clear-resin facsimiles of a cell phone and a bottle; Matthew Savitsky's unassuming tribute to Arte Povera, a wall-mounted burned pizza covered in resin; and Kat Schneck's newspaper prints (of Britney Spears, Barack Obama, others) on Silly Putty. Zena Verda Pesta's quirky conglomerations of spray-painted found china and plastic rhinestones would have fit nicely into the ICA's "Dirt on Delight: Impulses That Form Clay."

Walking through Vox V, you notice that most of its artists share an interest in the common found object or material, and an appreciation for the strange in the everyday. But it is the works that seem an effort to preserve or restore the transitory, not the blatantly makeshift and abject ones, that make the strongest impression in this show.

Vox Populi Gallery, 319 N. 11th St., Third Floor, noon to 6 p.m. Wednesdays through Sundays. www.voxpopuligallery.org or 215-238-1236 Through Aug. 2.

Dark duo

The mood of "Manifest Destination," the two-person show of works by a pair of Brooklyn-based artists at Tiger Strikes Asteroid, one floor up from Vox, is contemplative and somber.

William Crump's carefully rendered graphite drawings of a bearded mountain man in the American wilderness suggest that the frontiersman as a hero or role model of masculinity has not only lost its currency, but that such a figure has become animal-like and pitiable.

Andrew Prayzner's straightforward, unnuanced oil paintings of Colombian drug mules are at least as grim as the photographic images you assume he's based them on. These untitled anonymous "portraits" of men and women in varying states of undress, bring the disturbing photographs of prisoners at Abu Ghraib to mind.

7/19/2009


Galleries: Half-chaotic, half-refine...

Tiger Strikes Asteroid, 319 N. 11th St., Fourth Floor, noon to

6 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays. [www.tigerstrikesasteroid](http://www.tigerstrikesasteroid.com). Through July 31.

Find this article at:

http://www.philly.com/philly/entertainment/20090719_Galleries___Half-chaotic___half-refined_Trecartin_reflects_Vox_show.html

 **Click to Print**

[SAVE THIS](#) | [EMAIL THIS](#) | [Close](#)

Check the box to include the list of links referenced in the article.

© Copyright | Philly Online, LLC. All Rights Reserved. Any copying, redistribution or retransmission of any of the contents of this service without the express written consent of Philly Online, LLC is expressly prohibited.

7/19/2009

Galleries: Half-chaotic, half-refine...

