



Drawing Notebook

by N. F. Karlins

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[excerpt]

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Plane Space, located at 102 Charles Street in Greenwich Village, has mounted Drawings, an engaging show of 12 emerging young artists.

Andy Messerschmidts ink on paper extravaganza, *Parapurakayaprauesa*, consists of tiny abstract shapes -- phalluses, vulvas, hooks, snakes and crescents -- that interlock along a spine into a medallion mandala. A year-long effort, this drawing is the first work shown in New York by the artist, a 2002 U. of Minnesota grad. He is definitely someone to watch.

As is Plane Spaces artist-in-residence, **Kim Beck**. Her *Self-Storage* is two long sheets of paper that unroll down a wall in parallel. Reiterated long, low storage building units expand and contract in graphite on the paper sheets and on the walls. Some are cut from the paper scrolls and seem to have escaped and begun reproducing on the gallery walls. Eerie. Buildings as bunnies. Expansion is also a component of Tara Donovans large (72 x 60 in.) ballpoint drawing. Endless spirals generate decorative chenille-like ridges. The ridges make up round floral clusters that push into the white space like a bacterial colony or pond scum. The push-pull of the works tidy formation yet organic sprawl keeps the eye entranced.

The Italian-born and England-educated Davide Cantoni offers three small drawings with scenes that take some looking to make out in detail. These delicately wrought pieces are made by burning tiny bits of the paper, creating brown and ochre outlines that whisper unforgettably in their own distinctive hot breath, whether the topic is *Motel Gang*, *Mine South Africa* or *Muslim Prayer*. Another stand-out is Cotter Luppis colored pencil Xylaconic Straal, which wins a most-creative-title award after so many Untitled works this season. He combines Peter Max-ish rainbows of parallel colors with hard-edge geometries to impressive effect. The other works in Drawings range from imaginative to technically over-thought. Still, its a must-see for drawing fans.

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