

The background of the cover is a vibrant, abstract collage. It features a variety of shapes and colors, including a large pink airplane-like shape with a blue eye, a green and blue zigzag shape, a yellow and green striped shape, and a blue and green striped shape. There are also various geometric shapes like triangles, squares, and circles in shades of blue, green, yellow, and pink. The overall style is reminiscent of mid-century modern or pop art.

Art in America

JANUARY 2006

ELIZABETH
MURRAY

OSCAR
BLUEMNER

CRISTINA
IGLESIAS

GRANT
WOOD



\$5.00 USA
\$7.00 CAN £3.50 UK

William Porter, Joyce Hsu and Adam Ross, among others. In San Francisco, Hosfelt shows an international program sprinkled with local artists such as Jim Campbell. This month, he opens a space in the Hell's Kitchen area of Manhattan where he will focus on West Coast artists, including Richard James, Nelleke Beltjens, Ron Griffin, Gay Outlaw and Greg Rose.



View of Annie Cheung's small stacks, 2004-05, sand and glue, each tile 3 1/2 by 5 inches. Courtesy Steven Wolf Fine Arts.

Omar Chacon: Untitled, 2005, acrylic on cardboard, 7 1/4 by 11 inches. Courtesy Linc Art.



Interior view of Queen's Nails Annex with posters by Juan Luna-Azin.



Another newcomer to the scene is Lisa Dent, a former director of Friedrich Petzel Gallery in New York, who opened her gallery near the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art in 2004. She recently showed a red-velvety, loungy sound installation by Kiana Ford. Other gallery artists of interest include Vermont-based Flo McGarrell, who makes billowy, tentlike sculptures;

Maiko Sugano, whose current installation consists of disparate objects on shelving units [through Jan. 28]; and BAN 4's Hank Willis Thomas, who, along with Ford, is in the current "Frequency" show at the Studio Museum in Harlem [through Mar. 12].

Modernism, a gallery that shows both contemporary and historical work, presented geometric abstractions by L.A.-based painter Charles Arnoldi. Crown Point Press presented subdued figurative prints by local Nathan Oliveira, and images with quirky, endearing figures by Hong-Kong-based Wilson Shieh. At Bucheon Gallery, near Civic Center, watercolor paintings by local artist Laura Ball depicted her mother and three sisters having raucous fun on a carousel, and mixed-medium paintings by Alabama-based Merrilee Chaliss presented a fantastical world of strange flora and fauna.

The city's independent spirit is manifest in the number of offbeat gallery spaces that continue to thrive, many of them artist-run. At the Luggage Store, recent shows have included locals Steve Powers, Adriane Colburn and Tauba Auerbach, New York artists Joe Amrhein and Reed Anderson, and L.A.-based Jen Liu. Linc Art, run by Charles Linder, featured paintings by Omar Chacon composed of dots or squeezed strands of acrylic paint that sometimes dangle off the canvas; the effect is similar to works by Linda Besemer. That was followed up with a group show curated by local collector Robin Wright, which included Sarah Cain, Veronica DeJesus, Tucker Nichols and others. Another wellspring of emerging local talent is Amper-sand International Arts, which next month opens a group show curated by artists Amanda Huguen, Jennifer Starkweather and Robert Gutierrez (included in BAN 4, though he now lives in Portland).



Maiko Sugano: Jewelry Holder Mountain, 2005, redwood, 60 by 40 by 40 inches. Courtesy Lisa Dent Gallery.

Currently one of the buzziest venues is Queen's Nails Annex, deep in the Mission, founded in September 2004 by artists Bob Linder and Julio Cesar Morales. During my visit they had "Quermos Rock!," an exhibition exploring subcultural rock movements in Mexico City, featuring Miguel Calderon, Daniel Guzman, Pedro Reyes and others. It included a re-creation of a structure in the Tanguis del Chopo, a small public space in Mexico City that serves as a weekly meeting place for punk, metal and goth teens. Other recent shows have featured such artists as Eamon Ore-Giron, Sarah Cain and Jason Jägel.

Also in the Mission is Ratio 3, a nonprofit founded in 2004 by Chris Perez, who previously worked as a curatorial assistant at New York's Whitney Museum. He mounted a well-timed show of paintings by Robert Gutierrez and will feature new sculptures by New York-based Robert Lazarini in September. Among the various quirky spaces in the Mission is the back room at the well-loved Adobe Books, a tiny space where a number of artists first gained exposure, including Chris Johanson. John Hattori's video project in BAN 4, *One Minute Portraits*, is a veritable ode to the bookstore and the individuals who frequent it. Following Adobe's lead, the nearby 'zine store Needles and Pens also maintains a small exhibition space in its back room. It's the tenacity and raw energy of the city's smaller, more do-it-yourself spaces, and their willingness to take chances, that gives the city's art scene its particular flavor. □