

GALLERIES

Kenneth Baker

Zebzda and Tull At Show N Tell

Show N Tell, at 1477 Folsom Street, is a gallery only on Saturdays. (The rest of the time it is the loft space of sculptor and furniture designer Jean-Louis Pierson.) At Show N Tell you can often see art that hasn't yet been smoothed out by the art world mill (though it may bear scars of art school).

Currently, Show N Tell is presenting sculpture by Wayne Zebzda and paintings by Dani Tull (through May 20). Most of Zebzda's pieces are devices inspired by his experience of living South of Market, where the homeless are his transient neighbors.

There is a begging machine (a tin cup on a wheel with a crank to extend and retract it), a can crusher (big steel cylinder on rope and pulley) and a chain hammock for transporting a passed-out citizen, with a handle on one end of its steel frame and a wheel on the other.

I assumed these objects were intended as expressions of sympathy for the homeless, but there is an edge of cruelty to them as well. I don't know whether it is cruelty Zebzda himself feels toward the down-and-out or what he perceives

as the falseness of public charity, or both. In any case, the emotional ambivalence of his pieces makes them tough.

On a shelf, he has arrayed 99 bottles of Thunderbird, the wine of choice among the penniless. (Visitors are invited to taste.) The obvious rebuke to California's self-satisfied wine aficionados will be appreciated by Show N Tell's constituency.

Dani Tull's sense of direction seems a lot less sure than Zebzda's, though it is scarcely fair to compare them. Several of Tull's paintings have beautiful harlequined surfaces that appear to be made with pigmented wax. One untitled piece, in which a bare bulb hangs over a bathtub, seems to open a window to a different time in a manner similar to Ross Bleckner's work.

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GALLERY/ As if it were a planned community centered at 6th and Mission Sts., Wayne Zebzda's sculpture environment could easily be called "Wino Village." Along with a wall lined with 99 bottles of Thunderbird, the show includes an industrial-sized beer can smasher that turns recycling into a ritual, wine drawings, and a cart for a drunken man. Veering close to exploitation, the interactive pieces make this on-the-edge lifestyle seem engagingly industrious as Zebzda makes astute cultural observations and sly artistic references within the unlikely form of a beer bust. Also on view are multi-media paintings by Dani Tull. Through May 20 at Show N Tell, 1477 Folsom St., S.F. Call 864-4680 for more information.
Glen Helfand