

HYPERALLERGIC

Delicious Eye Candy at Socrates Sculpture Park



by Jocelyn Silver
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The Emerging Artists Fellowship Exhibition at the Socrates Sculpture Park in Long Island City is certainly worth the trek to Queens. The whimsical sculpture show, which launches a yearlong celebration of the park's 25th anniversary, was an excellent showcase for young talent. The diverse sculptures work in congress with the amazing view of Manhattan's skyline to create an art viewing experience that is at once soothing and sublime.

The exhibit has no specific linking theme, but does show how the artists, who primarily composed their pieces outside, were able to seamlessly insert industrial materials into the landscape. My personal favorites were those with a dreamy bent, such as Darren Goins' detailed terrariums. Saul Melman's freestanding glass doors, placed in the exact positions as they would be in a classic Brooklyn apartment, were a surreal way at looking at and through the park. Ben Godward created a quite literally massive achievement, with his 49-foot high sculpture, featuring gelatinous drippings resembling wet paint.

Jessica Segall's poured-concrete sculpture of a pillow fort was not only an interesting use of materials (it truly did look soft), but perfectly placed in a park. Parks, much like pillow forts, are for children to play in, and her playful take on a childhood pastime is lovely. Joy Curtis' sharp, steel casings were apocalypse-esque, and rather eerie when paired with the beautiful view. Hong Seon Jang's architectural sculpture of a poured marble-like substance over stacked furniture was extremely beautiful.

Overall, the show is definitely worth a look. Some pieces are a little obvious (such as "Rock Star," which features a boy on a rock playing a guitar. I really liked it.), but the overall experience of attending the show is

peaceful, serene and lovely. Enjoy the semi-reasonably nice weather we're having and head out to Long Island City for an art show that, much like Ryan Reynolds, maybe won't make you think that much, but is sure nice to look at.

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nothing spectacular. In fact, they were practically designed to camouflage with the pre-fabricated tiling of the gallery floor. The pieces ask: “why are we different from the floor at all?” But they have a grace they can not help, and they are modest because, frankly, they deserve to be showcased by themselves.

On Display is available for viewing through August 22nd, but for those who miss it, a nicely printed catalog with images and essays will be available for \$5. And while all the other galleries have been on vacation for August, Storefront remains active. As far as Brooklyn galleries go, Storefront is worth keeping an eye on. They have a unique selection of work with a couple top-quality artists.