

ART NEW ENGLAND

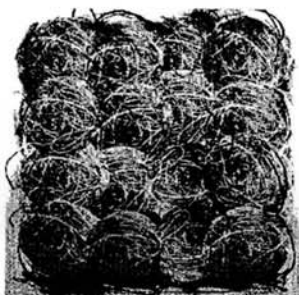
CONTEMPORARY ART AND CULTURE

August/September 2006

Sacred Heart University/ Fairfield, CT

www.artgallery.sacredheart.edu

LOCAL LINES



Dorothy Powers, *Variations on a Line #1*, enlarged photo of string balls, 72 x 72", 2005.

Many artists today consider their role as “thinkers,” hiring others to produce their artwork. This fabrication process is hardly a new phenomenon. Sol LeWitt often leaves the production of his art to a task force of workers—a process once considered unique for its time. Today, it is often a way for artists to have their cake and eat it too.

This leaves some artists time to ponder problems, especially about finding hot galleries that can command high prices for their concretized concepts. Of course, there are exceptions—artists

whose ideas are worthy of fabrication.

In contrast, Connecticut artists Dorothy Powers, Susan Shutan, Eve Lee, and Eva Stocton take obvious pleasure in their art making process as well as in their works’ development. In this exhibition, their well-executed artworks acknowledge how the term “line” has expanded, thus indicating their awareness of the prevailing ideas floating around the New York art scene at the moment.

Dorothy Powers’s high-velocity charcoal lines spiral into balls of yarn or string. In her latest work, small fragments of her images are printed in large scale to metamorphose them into altogether different images. Susan Shutan renders large charcoal drawings that shock with the discordance between their beauty and the life-taking viruses they depict. Black string around straight pins form closed shapes that reference her drawings. With her woodcut, Eva Stocton makes an interesting detour in her printing process by exhibiting a print created from a Mylar cutout. Eva Lee’s white-ink-on-black-paper minimalist drawings are starkly lovely.

Artists who have their work fabricated feed all levels of artwork into a complicated gallery system. However, they miss the delight in seeing their ideas realized by the skill of their own hands. *Lois Goglia*