

L.A. WEEKLY January 23 - 29, 1981

Pick Of The Week



Lynne Henkel's artwork is oddly ominous: colored, flat, cut-out figures and forms, engaged in ambiguous activities; the recurring theme of a circular saw blade, both as cut-outs and as tubular drawings. There are spiky trapezoids and webs, all without any sort of cause and effect relationship to a recognized structure. **B. Wurtz** exhibits non-functional art objects like portable paintings and drawings with handles, candy wrappers suspended from wire frames, three-ring paper binders hung from clothespins. Flotsam and jetsam art, the items that we use rendered useless by their conversion to *objets d'art*.

Constance Mallinson shows elegant, sophisticated and good-looking PrismaColor drawings in lush mauves, jades and lapis lazuli that echo the patterning of ancient Guatemalan fabrics. From a distance, they are rectangles of uniform color; up close, they seem to recede back into layers of space, and yet their gestural surface denies the possibility of that perspective. A very intriguing three-person show at LACE to February 5.

Ed Ruscha still uses the irony of language as a formal visual element to dissect the very ideas and feelings that the words exemplify. The latest batch of "Grand Horizontals" place those concepts in geographical relationship to the time and space continuum of the earth's surface. For example, the earth's darkened surface gently curves against the nighttime sky, and on the far left side are the small printed words, "wolves, explosions, disease, poisons." Several feet to the right (these are long paintings) rests the word, "home." Isn't that the graphic embodiment of the 20th century mind-set? The unattractive reality is always over there, nowhere near the psychological safety of our "home." The show continues at ARCO thru February 14. Also of interest are the iconoclastic works of **Stuart Rapoport**, **Dustin Shuler** and **Thomas Stanton** at Artspace to January 31; **Peter Leshkov's** painterly torsos under glass at Baum-Silverman to January 31; **Jay Phillips'** enamel on aluminum sculpture/painting at Newspace to January 31.

—Hunter Drohojowska