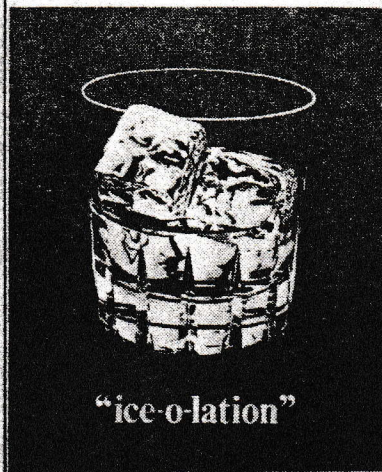


Mitchell Syrop at the Richard Kuhlenschmidt Gallery

Twenty years ago, conceptual artists often used their art to frankly criticize the politics of Madison Avenue and its methods of manipulating society's priorities. The current generation of post-conceptualists demonstrates similar distaste for the dehumanizing hard-sell and



Mitchell Syrop

the psychological conditioning, but their art delivers the message with a new sardonic wit and wisdom. Mitchell Syrop is such an artist, juxtaposing typical advertising and news photographs with incongruous texts. The results are satire of Swiftian subtlety. The more obvious are the black-and-white graphics depicting a clothes dryer in action next to the message "Let Freedom Wring," or the photograph of a briefcase paired with the words "Stoop to conquer." More thought-provoking is a grid of nine photographs of different objects, each captioned with the words "Lift and Separate." It's a demonstration of the power of context: next to a photograph of three pieces of silverware the

words seem to be instructions, next to a photograph of a rocket blasting off they convey description, accompanying a photo of a preposterous canopied double bed the message rings of actions in the past, of a couple who have "lifted and separated."

Most of the images in the show are concerned with advertising and consumerism. But Syrop not only observes, he participates. A shop he's set up in the gallery sells such knick-knacks as bars of soap stamped with the words "All Systems Go," and bizarre ceramics. In all, a delightfull, intelligent absurdist exhibition. (Through May 5.)

—Hunter Drohojowska