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'this one is smaller than this one.'

By KEN JOHNSON



An installation view of Postmasters Gallery's group show "*this one is smaller than this one.*" Credit Postmasters Gallery

Looking for a one-stop introduction to the pluralistic yet somehow unified field of today's art? See "this one is smaller than this one.," a show of more than 70 small works by 28 artists at Postmasters Gallery. What's most striking about the exhibition, though, isn't its contents but its presentation. All the pieces are displayed on a broad, white, irregularly geometric table. It's a brilliant installation, a work of art in its own right.

Styles range from the verbal Conceptualism of Lawrence Weiner's gnomic, block-lettered text, which reads, "An Abrogation of the Inherent Destiny of Any Object at Hand" (1998), to the funky surrealism of Monica Cook's "Cobra" (2014), a monstrous snake made of stuffed stockings and porcupine quills, among other materials.

Social commentary appears in the form of airy, delicate constructions of sticks, string and paper representing economic graphs and charts by Richard Ibghy and Marilou Lemmens. More biting satire is "In the Future the Past will be different. (Part 2)" by Jen Catron and Paul Outlaw, an array of 39 doll-scale bunk beds with tiny Nike sneakers parked beside each one. It represents the Heaven's Gate mass suicide of 1997.

Psychedelically minded viewers should enjoy "Hyperskins," a video of weird, constantly morphing animated forms by Andrew Thomas Huang, who is best known for creating trippy music videos for the singer Björk. For the traditionalist, there's "Untitled (Bronze Nose)," by Gregg Louis, a softball-size lump of cast bronze from which emerges a well-formed, shiny human nose. Visitors are invited to rub it for good luck.

Postmasters Gallery
54 Franklin Street, TriBeCa
Through March 12