



Time Out New York / Issue 681 : Oct 16–22, 2008

“The Split Wall”

SOUTHFIRST, through Oct 26

Fabienne Lasserre and Hilary Harnischfeger’s two-person exhibition might be subtitled “The Subterraneans.”

Lasserre’s felt sculptures sport blind, sentient tendrils that reprise the iconic feminist critique on painting: the tentacle-like projection from the wall. Her permutations of this Eva Hesse–style

Installation view trope are awkwardly sympathetic in *Pulling Things Out of Proportions*, in which a felt-covered frame erupts with twin feelers that extend to kissing distance of the floor; the longer of the two sports a fleshy wound, perhaps the price of its overexuberance. Lasserre’s tragicomic appendages enact rich, silent dramas that only seem more human for their imperfections.



Photograph: Courtesy SOUTHFIRST

Harnischfeger’s paper assemblages/paintings evoke sedimentary shifts and magma eruptions deep in the Earth’s core. Primarily composed of pink- and purple-stained watercolor pages that are then layered together and cut through, these abstractions feature striated boulder forms abutting one another at angles to suggest vast geological forces upending the viewer’s sense of scale.

The impact that Lasserre and Harnischfeger achieve is no less commanding for the modest scale of their pieces. The two artists retrofit the concerns of postminimalist feminist art with a touch of science fiction, creating works that are neither escapist nor decidedly political, but rather reflect psychological encounters achieved through a deep investigation of materials.

— Brian Zeeger