

WEEKEND Arts

MOVIES
PERFORMANCES
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THE Listings

May 25-May 31

'PUT IT ON: THUKRAL & TAGRA' Jiten Thukral and Sumir Tagra, collaborators from New Delhi, are artists for a new century: passionately partisan, socially engaged, yet pleasantly fresh and stylish with an eye on today's buoyant art market. Their latest offering is an installation at Bose Pacia Gallery meant to raise awareness of H.I.V., especially in India, where more than five million people are infected. But unlike most art projects that tackle social issues, this show skips statistics and documentary material. Instead the artists have created lyrical paintings of couples in bed onto which they have collaged little embroideries of human hands putting on condoms.

In this way the artists transform their mordant, slightly risqué subject into a jaunty farce with elements of tableau vivant. Surrounding the paintings are storelike displays of boxes and mannequins wearing custom-designed products like undergarments and flip-flops with pointed messages promoting safe sex. The products do not have the poise and vitality of the paintings, but then again they seem to serve a slightly different purpose here: All products are available for \$50 each for those looking to make an art-related contribution to a good cause.

(Through June 9, Bose Pacia Gallery, 508 West 26th Street, 11th floor, Chelsea, 212-989-7074, bosepacia.com.)

BENJAMIN GENOCCHIO



Bose Pacia Gallery