

WEEKEND, APRIL 11-13, 2008

Art things like this →

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Dave Eggers, the curator of “Lots of Things Like This,” admits in some of the literature about the show that there is no word to describe the kind of art in this exhibition.

I can’t think of one either. At a casual glance, the imperfect lines, the text with the corrections simply scratched out and the sketchy quality of many of the works would remind you of your high school chemistry notebook with doodles and scribbles produced by a wandering mind littering the margins.

But then you take a closer

look, reading the words and immersing yourself into the artwork crafted by a hodgepodge of artists, writers, cartoonists and musicians. This stuff is funny, insightful and absurd. It is exactly what you’d expect from the founder of McSweeney’s.

To understand what the exhibit is all about, consider the untitled piece by noted writer and director David Mamet. It is a simple, almost wobbly drawing of a bottle with the words, “Not test on animals” on the body of the bottle surrounding a picture of a rabbit in a circle with a slash through it. It seems rather innocuous until you read the fine print: “Tested on orphans.”



Jeffrey Brown’s “Mom is Going to be Pissed”

There are, as the title of the exhibit professes, lots of things like this. The works of David Shrigley, Raymond Pettibon, Maira Kalman and Tucker Nichols are featured heavily in the exhibit, spanning the spectrum of crudely drawn works to finely

done paintings.

Jay Howell offers up a 2002 work called “5 Baldy Beardos.” It’s a surprisingly accurate piece showing five individuals with various degrees of facial hair and bald hairstyles. Written in between the faces is “5 mus-

tache men and baldy beardos all went to Aerosmith and loved it.” It really looks like they did.

David Berman, frontman of the band the Silver Jews, contributed a slew of pieces, including a work titled “Lou Reed Prays to a Zebra,” which looks exactly like the title implies, and another work called “Sea-Nerd” with a half nerd, half octopus swimming along.

Graphic novelist Jeffrey Brown has a hilarious one-panel comic strip titled “Mom is going to be pissed” that is funnier than any strip you’ll find on the comics page. Fellow cartoonist Paul Hornschemeier offers his piece “Dialectic on Preference,” which, with its 10-dollar-word title and beautifully rendered candy-coated cartoon art, is the perfect vehicle for a filthy mom joke.

(All works courtesy of apexart, New York)

On view

■ At apexart through May 10. Tues-Sat 11 a.m. - 6 p.m. FREE. 291 Church St between Walker and White sts (1 to Franklin St; 6, J, M, N, R, Q, W, Z to Canal St; A, C, E to Canal-Church Sts) 212-431-5270

OK, so this isn’t your typical art exhibit. But the significance of these works is put in perspective by the inclusion of art from more museum-friendly artists. Marcel Duchamp’s famous work “LHOOQ,” a postcard of the Mona Lisa with a moustache and goatee drawn on it, sits on the same wall with works from Andy Warhol, Jean Michel Basquiat and R. Crumb. It’s a mixture of the hilarious with the subversive and an entirely welcome addition to the art world.



Maira Kalman’s “There are limits to Deluxe”



Chris Johanson’s “This workshop is highly regarded as an excellent workshop”