"Phantom Captain"

Davy Rothbart, found magazine, traveling found installation

apexart, through Nov 25 (see Soho)

Curator Andrea Grover is best known for turning a derelict Houston church into a thriving moving image and art center called the Aurora Picture Show. Now she ushers the work of literally thousands of artists (many of them Web-based) into the modest space of apexart for "Phantom Captain: Art and Crowdsourcing." The show explores the aesthetic possibilities of "crowdsourcing," a term coined to describe cooperative labor performed in the service of corporations (think eBay). Each work presents a different model of art made by a mob.

Davy Rothbart, editor of Found magazine, which publishes found ephemera, has edited hundreds of its submissions into a wall-sized collage that includes to-do lists, Mod Libs, photographs, and an assortment of love notes and greeting cards, all weathered and likely long-forgotten by their original authors. Allison Wiese updates MoMA's 1977 Artist's Cookbook with a gridlike display of recipes for unexpected dishes, submitted by artists active in 2006, like sautéed dove (by Michael Rich) or Coca-Cola cake (by Jay Stuckey).

The Internet-based projects here are the most authentically generated; paradoxically, they also point out the persistence of individuality as an ethos among artists. The dozens of snapshots in Harrell Fletcher and Miranda July's Assignment #30: Take a picture of Strangers Holding Hands (from the website Learning to Love You More) deviate from guidelines like "no smiling" and "picture must include faces." The variation of the photographs reveals a productive tension between personal expression and mass collaboration that runs throughout this show.—Lauren Cornell

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