

NEW YORK

## Philosophical Toys

N E W S



Sina Najafi, editor of *Cabinet* magazine, curated this display in glass-faced vitrines along the walls and table tops at Apex Art. Up front were sundry Nineteenth Century prints and open booklets containing charts, games, and geometric puzzles. Across the room a row of origami-like configurations lined the wall. But towards the rear of the gallery Shea Zellweger's hermetic creations were the most remarkable. His display case contained numerous eccentrically fascinating toy-like wooden gadgets that were demarcated with

SHEA ZELLWEGER, *Flipstick*, 1979. Enamel on wood, 10 x 46 x 5 cm. Courtesy of Apex Art, New York.

his "Logic Alphabet" — a system of letters and symbols that took a lifetime to work out. It required an inveterate cryptographer to figure out what it all meant. There were explanatory notes in plain language that were absolutely opaque. But it was just this indecipherability (coupled with exquisite craftsmanship) that made these objects so intriguing.

—Christopher Chambers