

# KATE WERBLE GALLERY

83 VANDAM STREET NEW YORK, NY 10013

## The New York Times

*"COLLECTOR'S CHOICE" AT EXIT ART*

**KEN JOHNSON**

**DECEMBER 15, 2000**

Exit Art  
548 Broadway, near Spring Street  
SoHo  
Through Dec. 30

For this year's "Choice" exhibition, Exit Art asked eight New York art collectors, "If you had \$50,000 to spend on contemporary art, what would you buy?"

Though not devoid of interesting works, the resulting sprawl of more than 100 items by about 80 mostly younger or emerging artists reflects more the general complexion of the semi-hip marketplace than any very distinctively selective vision.

Ann Tenenbaum focused exclusively on relatively well-known photographers, including one work each by Richard Billingham, Gregory Crewdson and Vic Muniz. Richard Ekstract leaned toward funk and fantasy, picking cartoonish painterly abstractions by Elizabeth Cooper and Giles Lyon and dreamy paintings of toylike plants by Sally Ross.

More conceptually oriented, Greg Allen chose an installation of tiny colored balls by Tom Friedman, an actual-size sidewalk corner made of real frosted cake by Art Domantay and, like a number of the collectors, a large, implicitly narrative color photograph, this one a picture of a campsite by Stephen Shore. Norman Dubrow's crowded installation of paintings and photographs includes **Christopher Chiappa's** funny photographic sequence of a man appearing to chew down a tree.

Choices by the three other collectors -- Gregory Miller, Paige West and the team of J. K. Brown and Eric Diefenbach -- further expand the field of random, intermittently compelling but ultimately monotonous pluralism.

Offering a pleasant refuge from this is an installation selected by Raymond Leary: inside Leo Villareal's dark, mirror-walled "Particle Chamber" you can sit on a giant pillow, listen to soothing electronic music and space out under the drifting lights of scientific video scenes.

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