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Arts

ART IN REVIEW
ART IN REVIEW; 'Thrifting'
By HOLLAND COTTER
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Lombard-Freid Fine Arts
531 West 26th Street, Chelsea
Through tomorrow

All the artists in this out-of-towner showcase organized by Kerry Inman are represented by the Inman Gallery of Houston, known as a seedbed for young talent. And as the title suggests, much of the work is made of used and castoff materials.

Bill Davenport is a ringleader here, touching on many formal bases in a still-life painting of vintage paperbacks, a plaster sculpture of a snowman and a child-size pink mitten emblazoned with the word "go." Francesca Fuchs uses "found" patterns in her paintings: the horizontal colored stripes on a thermos are turned into a mural. And Brad Tucker does ingenious things with carved skateboards and cut-out foam rubber words. (He is also included in the current "Some New Minds" at the P.S. 1 Contemporary Art Center in Long Island City, Queens.)

The real magician of recycling, though, is Dario Robleto, who is represented here by modest pieces, among them a couple of his wry diva homages. One, "I Wish I Could Give Maria All the Love She Will Ever Need," is made of thrift store trophy parts recast from melted Callas recordings.

Mr. Robleto has a mad-scientist's way of mixing music, technology, art history, philosophy and stand-up comedy to create fresh, mutant forms. He recently completed an installation-style project at ArtPace in San Antonio, and judging by photos, it would be the perfect centerpiece for an overdue New York solo.

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<http://www.nytimes.com/2001/01/05/arts/art-in-review-thrifting.html>