

# Exhibit is a meditation on concepts of transience

By Nicole LaRosa

**S**ome artists are drawn to subjects that can't be nailed down. Others enter the ephemeral realm by committing their artwork to a space that offers no promise of permanence.

In "DRIFT," the latest exhibit at the Bronx River Arts Center, artists explore transience in all its forms — from sprawling site-specific drawings that will soon be painted over, to haunting photographs of immigrants searching for a safe place to call home.

Walking into the bare-bones, storefront space on East Tremont Avenue, visitors are confronted with Ken Landauer's "Void Fill," a wooden workbench sculpture that makes fun of modern day toys and all the intricate disposable packaging that goes with them. Thick blocks of dark brown wood, shaped exactly like the empty space in a normally useless iPod box or plastic casing of a compact umbrella, symbolize the voids created by rampant consumerism.

Artist Haeri Yoo channeled her inner child and worked for five days, eight hours a day, drawing and painting a floor-to-ceiling mural on the gallery's far wall. Big red and yellow people with round bellies scribbled in crayon seem to follow scrawled black pencil lines into the next room. Smaller figures dwell in the corners, near abstract shapes and lines.

"This piece has grown on me," said gallery coordinator Jose Ruiz, adding that he's come to appreciate "the little hidden areas that have mini-narratives." An artist himself, he respects Ms. Yoo, he said, for working that hard, "knowing that it won't be here next month."

Curated by Eileen Olivieri Torpey from Sante

Fe, N.M., "DRIFT" is an annual exhibit that finds a new home somewhere in New York City each year. Site-specific work is central to the theme of the traveling show, as is performance art created for the space and surrounding neighborhood. When this year's show opened on Nov. 4, artists created an old-time office right outside the front window, shuffling papers and banging staplers while blaring Frank Sinatra tunes. A video playing in the gallery shows passersby stopped to cut a rug on the sidewalk with the performers. Artists also took advantage of the Bronx River, which flows beside the building, with Brooklyn-

based sculptor Tiffany Pollack embedding pink and blue ceramic turtles into the earth on the shoreline.

The turtles made it safely inside once the opening festivities ended, and sit next to a whimsical, totem-pole-like sculpture called "Water People." Artist Andrew Guenther stacked two barrel-shaped coolers,

affixing coconut shells for eyes and dangling crushed tin cans for earrings.

Most of the exhibiting artists are in their 20s and 30s, said Mr. Ruiz, and could be described as "emerging." Many are from Brooklyn and the Bronx.

"DRIFT" will run until Saturday, Dec. 9, at the Bronx River Arts Center, 1087 E. Tremont Ave. Gallery hours are Monday to Friday, from 3 to 6:30 p.m. Admission is free.

CLOCKWISE from top, an overview of the Bronx River Art Center; Ken Landauer's 'Void Fill'; Haeri Yoo's 'Untitled'; Gretchen Bennett's 'Take Me To The River'; Alex Morel's 'Binny and Alejandro, Cabarete 2005'; and Andrew Guenther's 'Water People 2006.'

