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September 17, 1982 For Immediate Release For more information Contact Tom Finkelpearl (212) 784-2084

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THE NEW YORK TIMES, SUNDAY, OCTOBER 17, 1982



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THE NEW YORK TIMES, SUNDAY, OCTOBER 17, 1982



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THE NEW YORK TIMES Style TUESDAY, OCTOBER 19, 1982



thing the young art and fashion crowd was thinking about Sunday afternoon. On that day they could be found in Long Island City at the opening of P.S. I's new exhibition, "The Beast," a group of terrifying new paintings that have animals as their subjects, including an oil of a dog chased by wolves, by an artist named Leonard Koscianski, But even at P.S. I, fashion was to be found.

Not only did the crowd wear its best Sunday black, but there was, as well, a fashion exhibition by Lloyd Allen, a young sportswear designer. Using beasts as his theme, Mr. Allen has come up with some fairly ingenious designs using, he said, "genuine polyester." His slim, three-quarterslength coats in giraffe and leopard prints did amuse, as did his backless "Venus de Vinyl" dress. But of greater interest were his well-designed rain ponchos, with hoods funneled like elephants' trunks, made of black water-repellent pile, and his new belts, shaped like the plastic ties used to close Hefty bags.

"I just love the belt," said Mr. Allen. "The idea came to me at 2:30 in the morning." Of course.

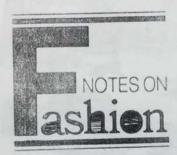
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THE NEW YORK TIMES Style TUESDAY, OCTOBER 19, 1982

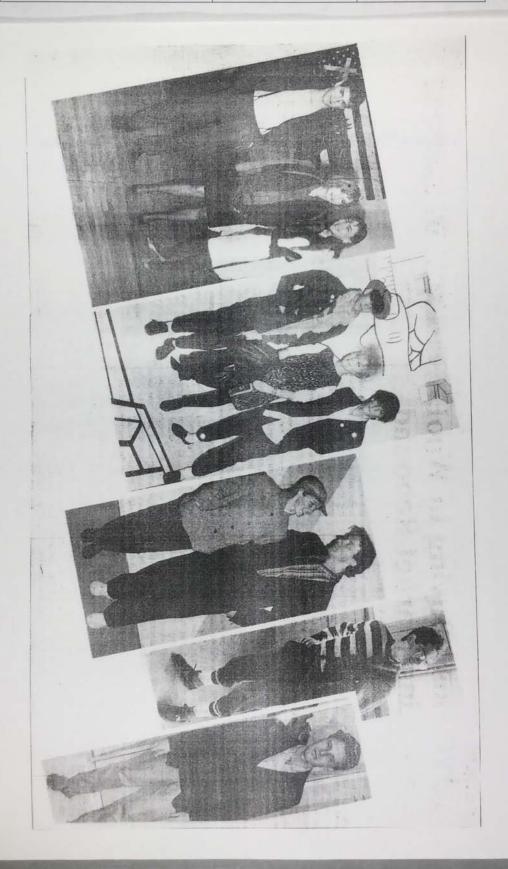


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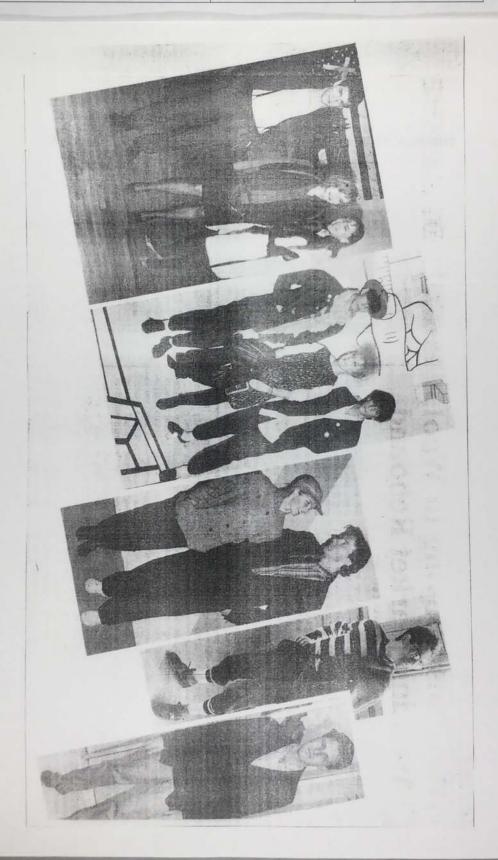


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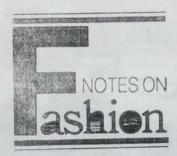
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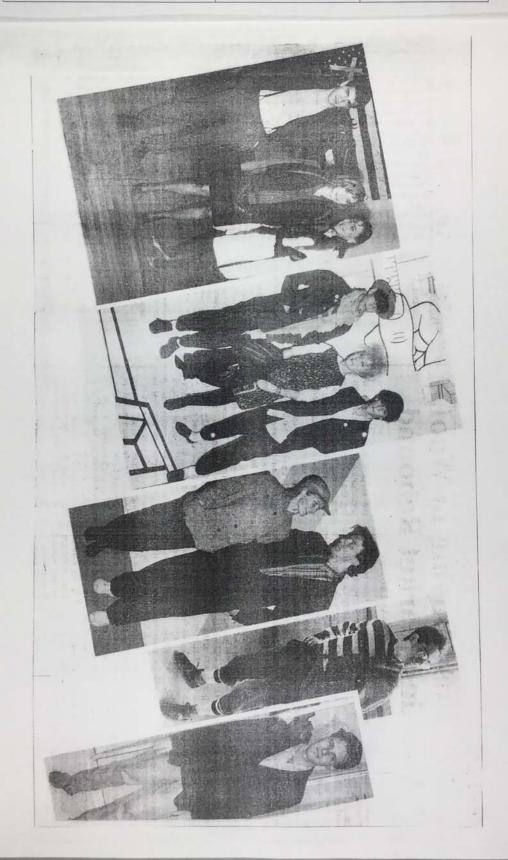
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BETWEEN THE LINES

VARIATIONS ON A THEME: Designer LLOYD ALLEN professes that synthetics are an endangered species, a conviction which led him to choose man-made fibers as the theme for his exhibition at P.S. 1. In keeping with the overall theme of "The Beast" at the Art and Urban Resources opening at the overall theme of "The Beast" at the Art and Urban Resources opening at P.S. 1 last Sunday, Allen maintains that "natural fibers and animals will always reproduce but that the genes of synthetic fibers constitute oil molecules ... that have not copulated since the days of the dinosaur." It is the nature of the beast, he says, "that 200 years from today a polyester dress will be illegal just as a leopard skin coat is now. With this in mind, we should buy our synthetics with the same care that we buy a mink coat, because it is an investment." Allen responded to the call of the jungle with elephant ponchos, fake furs in a variety of skins including "Thanks Ocelot", an evening dress called "Venus de Vinyl" and the "Cat People," a group of tiger print raincoats. It was, however, Allen's "Belt for a Modern Age. Waste Product" that was his crowning achievement. The belt is offered in at Waste Product" that was his crowning achievement. The belt is offered in at least fifty colors in such finishes as "fake snake, phony pony and later gator." Allen told BTL he got the idea for the belt when he was sick one evening and noticed the ingenious shape of plastic trash bag sealers.

Photos by R. G. B.





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VOICE NOVEMBER 2, 1982

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"In this new no-holds barred painting, anthropomorphism takes on a new dimension." (Grace Glueck)

ART VIEW

GRACE GLUECK

Of Beasts and Humans: Some Contemporary Views

nimals — with their challenging shapes, odd colors, affinity for symbolism and stand-in relationship to humans — have always served as virtually foolproof subjects for artists. Rosa Bonheur, who did poorly at people, could limn the soul in a horse's face; the German Expressionist Franz Marc said that painting animals brought out "all the good that was in me," and Henry Moore, concerned with human figures on a monumental scale, not too long ago had a lovely bout of sketching woolly sheep.

Yet there are times when the presence of animals in art is strong enough almost to make a trend. It's the thesis of Richard Flood, an art critic and an editor of the magazine Artforum, that such a thing happened in the romantic movement of the early 19th century, when animals frequented the work of such artists as the animalier sculptor Antoine-Louis Barye, the painters Eugene Delacroix and (in the United States) George Catlin. In the romantic movement, with its expressive emphasis on the personal and the rebellious, the beast was viewed sympathetically as a wild, natural force outside the staid confines of civilization, symbolizing the side of the human personality that wants out from society's restrictions.

Now, with our new interest in expressive figuration, animals seem to be stalking creative imaginations once again, infiltrating the work of such widely disparate artists as Malcolm Morley, Susan Rothenberg and Deborah Butterfield. In fact, so ubiquitous have they become in contemporary painting that Mr. Flood has corralled enough artists dealing in animal imagery to assemble a great big zoo of a show, simply and somewhat snarlingly titled "Beast," at P.S. 1, the Institute for Art and Urban Resource's outpost in Queens (through Dec. 12).

In the sketchy catalogue, Mr. Flood suggests without elaborating that artists today use beasts in a "primarily didactic role," that "prochans with the explorant amoral

revival of the human figure, contemporary artists see the beast as a less loaded vehicle for social instruction." If those statements seem less than borne out by the exhibition, we can at least accept his conclusion: "What is clear is that the extremities and absurdities of the human condition are being tellingly portrayed through the depiction of the beast." In this new, no-holds-barred painting, anthropomorphism takes on a new dimension.

Aside from all that, a group of paintings with animal themes is as good an excuse as any for a show, and this one doesn't stint. "Beast" boasts the work of 40 artists (most contributing more than one canvas), with Jonathan Borofsky, Richard Bosman, Roger Brown, Francesco Clemente, Roy DeForest, Keith Haring, Komar and Melamid, Mario Merz, Judy Rifka, Ger van Elk and Andy Warnhol among the better-known names. There is also "Animal Magnetism," an animal video show; "All God's Creatures," an exhibition of animal photography, and even an animal fashion show, "The Faux Beast," by Lloyd Allen, who maintains that the synthetics — nylons, polyesters and such — are the next endangered species.

But "Beast" first. As might be expected from such varied contributors, the show is a mélange of widely disparate styles and approaches, but its main thrust is neo-Expressionist—big, assertive, thickly-painted canvases rife with color and fervid imagery. One theme is the animal as threat, a view of beasts as fierce and sinister powers reflecting our innermost fears. I'm thinking here of Ed McGowin's 1977 painting, "Dog and Mirror," in which a grisly pink dog of devilish breed regards us malevolently from a stance in front of a mirror that reflects his shaved hindquarters; Frank Young's Baconesque, wildly painted portrait of a hairy dog, its terrifying mouth open in a snarl or a scream, and Richard Bosman's "Head." a more simplistic. True Detective treat-



Roy DeForest's "The Inner Life," in "Beast," now at P. S. 1 in Queens.

ment of a bloodied man beset by a catlike creature that crouches on his head.

An opposite view of the animal, as hunted and vulnerable, is taken by Leonard Koscianski, in whose "Pack Attack" four hideous yellow dogs bear down on what seems to be a dying boar; Earl Staley, whose "The Story of Actaeon II" depicts a big male deer with a man's face frantically trying to free itself from a horde of hounds; along with Mark Milloff, Michael Byron and Remy Blanchard who present several poignant glimpses of manhunted deer. The most ambitious canvas on this theme is Jeff Way's "History of Painting "After Catlin)," 1979, a panoramic scene in which two bleeding buffalo are attended by swarms of dogs and shamanistic Indians.

There are politics here, too. At the show's entrance, Ilona Granet presents as her version of "beasts" four corporate men, depicted as various agents of death, painted full-length on metal panels crudely shaped as cathedral windows; and in the P.S. I auditorium hang a series of banners by Saul Ostrow in which the "beasts" are those humans who perpetuate the arms race.

The whole subject of animals has its funny side, of course, a fact well-explored by many contributors. There are campy, King Kong apes by Jeff Way and Frank Holliday; a simpering, pink-lipped buffalo by Robert Colescott; a leering wolf by Michael McClard, a prehistoric

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ART VIEW

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creature posed — with 19th-century props — for an ancestral portrait by the Russian émigré artists Komar and Melamid. And then there are fantastical narrative scenes involving beasts, including Roy DeForest's "The Inner Life," a sort of patchwork gloss on the 19th-century artist Edward Hicks's series of "Peaceable Kingdoms"; Richard Mock's dog copulating with the Empire State Building and the wildest and funniest of the lot, Luis Cruz Azaceta's "The City Painter of Hearts," an apocalyptic canvas in which a big white dog, disgorging a smaller blue one, which in turn disgorges a mouse, leaps across a Surrealistic backdrop of a city in flames. Down in the lower right corner a tiny nude painter, surveying the scene, paints a tiny red heart on a tiny blue easel, It's memorable.

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Oftet/

"In this new no-holds barred painting, anthropomorphism takes on a new dimension." (Grace Glueck)

ART VIEW

GRACE GLUECK

Of Beasts and Humans: Some Contemporary Views

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Yet there are times when the presence of animals in art is strong enough almost to make a trend. It's the thesis of Richard Flood, an art critic and an editor of the magazine Artforum, that such a thing happened in the romantic movement of the early 19th century, when animals frequented the work of such artists as the animalier sculptor Antoine-Louis Barye, the painters Eugene Delacroix and (in the United States) George Catlin. In the romantic movement, with its expressive emphasis on the personal and the rebellious, the beast was viewed sympathetically as a wild, natural force outside the staid confines of civilization, symbolizing the side of the human personality that wants out from society's restrictions.

Now, with our new interest in expressive figuration, aminals seem to be stalking creative imaginations once again, infiltrating the work of such widely disparate artists as Malcolm Morley, Susan Rothenberg and Deborah Butterfield. In fact, so ubiquitous have they become in contemporary painting that Mr. Flood has corralled enough artists dealing in animal imagery to assemble a great big 200 of a show, simply and somewhat snarlingly titled "Beast," at P.S. 1, the Institute for Art and Urban Resource's outpost in Queens (through Dec. 12).

In the sketchy catalogue, Mr. Flood suggests without elaborating that artists today use beasts in a "primarily didactic role" that "perhaps with the explorant amoral

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Aside from all that, a group of paintings with animal themes is as good an excuse as any for a show, and this one doesn't stint. "Beast" boasts the work of 40 artists [most contributing more than one canvas], with Jonathan Borofsky, Richard Bosman, Roger Brown, Francesco Clemente, Roy DeForest, Keith Haring, Komar and Melamid, Mario Merz, Judy Rifka, Ger van Elk and Andy Warhol among the better-known names. There is also "Animal Magnetism," an animal video show; "All God's Creatures," an exhibition of animal photography, and even an animal fashion show, "The Faux Beast," by Lloyd Allen, who maintains that the synthetics — nylons, polyesters and such — are the next endangered species.

But "Beast" first. As might be expected from such varied contributors, the show is a mélange of widely disparate styles and approaches, but its main thrust is neo-Expressionist—big, assertive, thickly-painted canvases rife with color and fervid imagery. One theme is the animal as threat, a view of beasts as fierce and sinister powers reflecting our innermost fears. I'm thinking here of Ed McGowin's 1977 painting, "Dog and Mirror," in which a grisly pink dog of devilish breed regards us malevolently from a stance in front of a mirror that reflects his shaved hindquarters; Frank Young's Baconesque, wildly painted portrait of a hairy dog, its terrifying mouth open in a snarl or a scream, and Richard Bosman's "Head." a more simplistic. True Detective treat-



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BY DIANNA HOPPE

Project Studios 1 formerly Public School No. 1, a gutsy dwelling of simple white-washed rooms, houses a most unique approach to the arts and its energy. Its opening being reminiscence of school days, with a crowd gathered at the doors, like children waiting for the bell to ring and an orderly procession down the long narrow hallway, single file, one by one, until arrival upon the classrooms, - then the scatter, people bobbing about the beasts. Unlike most exhibits the audience, then became the participants; as they captured themselves in the corridors, with their own personal interaction of unconsciously clumsy collisions.

The show was also unordinary in that, instead of presenting a hodge-podge of art and artists, it revolved around one complete concept - The Beast - the man, the mammal, and the mind.

Mediums, techniques, and theories varied vastly. The artists and curators did a wonderful job, in grabbing the "beast" by the horns, beginning with several Keith Haring pieces on the 1st flr. Haring recently emerged from the "underground" with his subway art.

On the walls of a 2nd floor room, Kim Jones, illustrated an elaborate rodent-relationship. Done in black and white, with a few bits of color from collages, it depicts the world of mice and men. Among the more notible are the U.S. Marine Corps. (dated 1966-69) Alice from Wonderland, and President Reagan (from his acting daze).

In an adjoining room, "Art Couples 1" by Rudolf Baranik and May Stevens, curated by Donald Kuspit, again done in mostly black and white, leaves you with a feeling of the past. The beast as a ghost that haunts, or the skeleton in the

closet. As the artists state: "black fields modulated by a skeletal white imagery" and to "separate in male and female".

"Hell's Breath" a most enthusiastic piece combines, ceramics, architecture, and theatrical sound. "This tight-rope is depicted swaying back and forth, between good and evil forces in images that are our culture.", created by Nina Yankowitz, and curated by William Hellermann.

The studios on the 3rd floor include Nicolas Mouffrage, who's work again, is a mixed media, of mythological figures painted on needlepoint fabric, with embroidery and other romantic materials, such as gold painted feathers, cigarette packs, jewels, and 12" records, 'collaging them.

Lloyd Allen's, "The Faux Beast - Variation of Synthetics" is a fashion collection of P.V.C.'s, nylons, polyesters, and other such fibers, along with accessories as "Modern Age Waste Products", a rainbow array of belts made from "fake snake, later gater, ostrich" and a variety of other beasts.

"All God's Creatures", a realistic photo essay of scientists, naturalists, and endangered species is curated by Carol Squiers. Jane Weinger's haunting "Environmental Installation"/combines video and sound. The viewer is enveloped in pitch blackness, and suddenly confronted with a moaning mouth, gnashing teeth, and bulging eyes, synchronized to struggling moans and groans of man and beast. Even with limited imagery, it is startling and intense.

Curated by Richard Flood, "Beast", is a diversified collection of the animal that lies within each of us, and will be showing thru Dec. 12, Thurs-Sun 1-6 p.m. at P.S. 1 46-01 21st Street, Long Island City, Queens.

Dianna Hoppe is a visual artist living in N.Y.C.

= The Feminist Renaissance, December/1982 ==

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Lloyd Allen's, "The Faux Beast - Variation of Synthetics" is a fashion collection of P.V.C.'s, nylons, polyesters, and other such fibers, along with accessories as "Modern Age Waste Products", a rainbow array of belts made from "fake snake, later gater, ostrich" and a variety of other beasts.

"All God's Creatures", a realistic photo essay of scientists, naturalists, and endangered species is curated by Carol Squiers. Jane Weinger's haunting "Environmental Installation" combines video and sound. The viewer is enveloped in pitch blackness, and suddenly confronted with a moaning mouth, gnashing teeth, and bulging eyes, synchronized to struggling moans and groans of man and beast. Even with limited imagery, it is startling and intense.

Curated by Richard Flood, "Beast", is a diversified collection of the animal that lies within each of us, and will be showing thru Dec. 12, Thurs-Sun 1-6 p.m. at P.S. 1 46-01 21st Street, Long Island City, Queens.

Dianna Hoppe is a visual artist living in N.Y.C.

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BY DIANNA HOPPE

Project Studios I formerly Public School No. 1, a gutsy dwelling of simple white-washed rooms, houses a most unique approach to the arts and its energy. Its opening being reminiscence of school days, with a crowd gathered at the doors, like children waiting for the bell to ring and an orderly procession down the long narrow hallway, single file, one by one, until arrival upon the classrooms, - then the scatter, people bobbing about the beasts. Unlike most exhibits the audience, then became the participants; as they captured themselves in the corridors, with their own personal interaction of unconsciously clumsy collisions.

The show was also unordinary in that, instead of presenting a hodge-podge of art and artists, it revolved around one complete concept - The Beast - the man, the mammal, and the mind

Mediums, techniques, and theories varied vastly. The artists and curators did a wonderful job, in grabbing the "beast" by the horns, beginning with several Keith Haring pieces on the 1st flr. Haring recently emerged from the "underground" with his subway art.

On the walls of a 2nd floor room, Kim Jones, illustrated an elaborate rodent-relationship. Done in black and white, with a few bits of color from collages, it depicts the world of mice and men. Among the more notible are the U.S. Marine Corps. (dated 1966-69) Alice from Wonderland, and President Reagan (from his acting daze).

In an adjoining room, "Art Couples 1" by Rudolf Baranik and May Stevens, curated by Donald Kuspit, again done in mostly black and white, leaves you with a feeling of the past. The beast as a ghost that haunts, or the skeleton in the closet. As the artists state: "black fields modulated by a skeletal white imagery" and to "separate in male and female".

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"The Beast" and JOHN DUNKLEY-SMITH, P.S. 1; VICTOR ALZAMORA and JENNIFER BOLANDE, Artists Space:

"The Beast" and JOHN DUNKLEY-SMITH

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Against this muddy groundswell John Dunkley-Smith's rather old-fashioned room installation stood out in stark relief. This was the sort of site-specific work that used to be very familiar to visitors to P.S.1, and it was perhaps that extra edge of nostalgia that made its particular clarity and intelligence so appealing in such a beastly context. The piece itself, of course, was all about context, a specific spatial context to be sure, but the wider ramifications were not to be missed Drawing attention to the walls of a room within an institution inevitably draws attention to other walls in other rooms of that place

Opening the door to Dunkley-Smith's room one was immediately assaulted by a bright light. Two steps in and it became apparent that the light came from a slide projector directed toward the door wall of a very small room. The room was dark illuminated only by the slides, which changed with an even regularity. Aside from the projector there were few other objects in the room-a table, a chair something on the table. After one had adjusted one's eyes to the light the pattern of the slide presentation became quickly evident each wall of the room and the corridor outside had been photographed at systematically different exposures, so that the photographs ranged from too light to black. Thus, to the steady, metronomic beat of the projector, we examined each surface as it came to view and faded against the imperfect screen of a wall interrupted by an ever-opening and -closing door.

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John Dunkley-Smith, Interiors 2 – 5 1982, site-specific slide installation, installation view

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John Dunkley-Smith, Interiors 2 – 5 1982, site-specific slide installation, installation view.

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"The Beast" and JOHN DUNKLEY-SMITH, P.S. 1; VICTOR ALZAMORA and JENNIFER BOLANDE, Artists

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John Dunkley-Smith, Interiors 2 - 5 1982, site-specific slide

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Getting a handle on Bolande's work is more difficult—the sensibility at work is fugitive in a small room, the selection of small photographs and drawings seemed at first maybe to be about something All the pictures are unframed but one, the largest. Is it a key to the rest? It is a fairly large blowup of a newsprint photograph of a park or golf course at night, and indeed most of the other pictures seem to be of golf and golf courses, mostly at night under the strange glow of huge floodlights. Maybe some of the images are not of golf courses but of parkland—the lights make it impossible to tell. The crowds are clearly spectators. and some are definitely watching golfers, others may not be. And what of the rather schematic rendering of a ranch-style house, or the color photograph of a similar house? The photographs carry very little information offer few clues. They are actually all blown-up. details of magazine and newspaper illustrations, obscure corners of obscure images inflated until they begin to disintegrate into the dot pattern. The drawings are quickly brushed renderings of bushes and lights, quick blobs and slashes, they offer even less information than the photographs. The image collapses into the texture of the surface, a pattern of light and dark that represents Intle but suggests a great deal
—THOMAS LAWSON



John Dunkley-Smith, Interiors 2 – 5 1982, site-specific stide installation, installation view