

ARTFORUM



February 8, 2007

PHILADELPHIA

Ryan Trecartin and Lizzie Fitch

CRANE ARTS—THE ICE BOX PROJECT SPACE

1400 N American Street

February 1–February 24

This chaotic exhibition brings together a group of sculptures that resemble a cast of jubilant characters: Vibrant and immediate, they seem suited for the effervescent set of a high school version of some experimental drama. Assembled from disparate materials, the sculptures are actually the result of a group effort, in which artists Ryan Trecartin and Lizzie Fitch joined forces with a number of energetic friends. The ten sculptures—some depicting individuals, others intricate props or dysfunctional families—recall the carnivalesque atmospheres of Trecartin's videos, one of which, *A Family Finds Entertainment*, 2004, was prominently featured in the 2006 Whitney Biennial. Like a kaleidoscopic storyboard for a bizarre comedy show, Trecartin and Fitch's sculptural vignettes read as hallucinatory or grotesque snapshots of everyday life. In *The Traveling Blonde Monster*, 2006, a woman with a globe in place of a head stands wearing jeans covered in plastic fruit. Nearby is *Mr. Ashley*, 2006, a colossally fat man checking himself out in a mirror. In *It's Over—Be More Gay*, 2006, two gay dads dance around as their frightening child films them from a car seat. Recalling the work of artists such as John Bock and Paul McCarthy (with a touch of R. Crumb's exaggerated perspective), the artists' sculptures successfully infuse theatrical elements with an exuberant vitality, evoking Dionysian traditions and irreverent youth culture.



It's Over—Be More Gay, 2006, mixed media, 45 x 66 x 114".

—Cecilia Alemani