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ART IN REVIEW; 'Repeat Performance'

By KEN JOHNSON

Artists Space
38 Greene Street, SoHo
Through July 3

Presenting seven artists who in mostly ironic ways mimic works by significant predecessors, "Repeat Performance" is interesting but so academic it will make you gasp for air.

Acting on feminist impulse, Nancy Drew has produced full-scale copies of paintings by Jackson Pollock and Clyfford Still using glitter and taffy-colored flocking. Jill Miller has digitally inserted herself insouciantly dancing in a 1971 video by John Baldessari. But Mungo Thomson's translation of Bruce Nauman's famous neon sign dictum, "The true artist helps the world by revealing mystic truths," into a reflective bumper sticker is pointlessly redundant. And Tilo Schulz's video documents what looks like an adventurous design school class project: the restaging of a 1971 project by the Viennese architect Coop Himmelb(l)au in which two men walk through a city while inside a big, transparent inflated balloon.

Jason Dodge's installation of bent rods dangling over a broken mirror refers to a mobile by the modernist designer Harry Bertoia. The point remains obscure, but Mr. Dodge's simulated corporate lobby ashtrays are excellent. Also puzzling are John Jurayj's loose and washy copies of seascapes by Manet, all made on same-size pieces of plywood; maybe they are instances of commodity-critique art.

Jeff Feld presents a copy of the photograph of Robert Rauschenberg on roller skates holding a kind of umbrella overhead, which many will remember from their college art history textbooks. The joke is that the picture actually shows Mr. Feld himself, in a "Performance of the Only Part of Rauschenberg's 'Pelican' That I Know." KEN JOHNSON

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