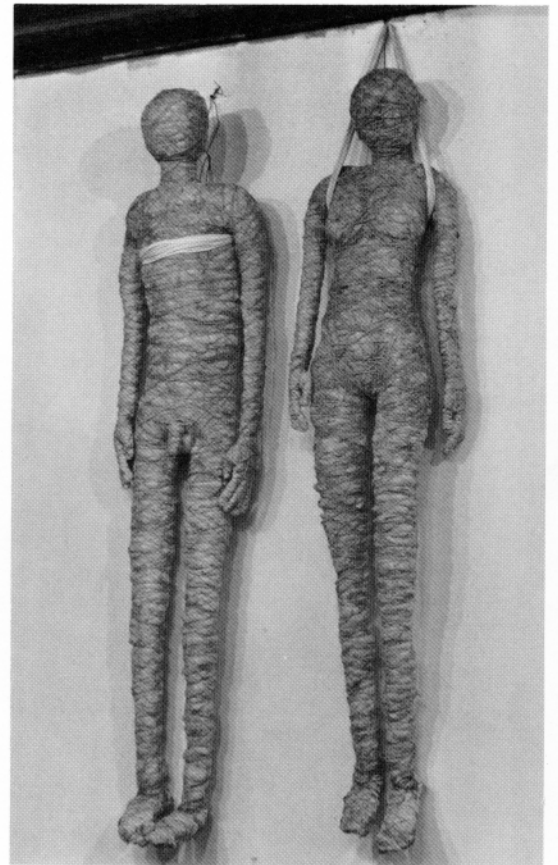
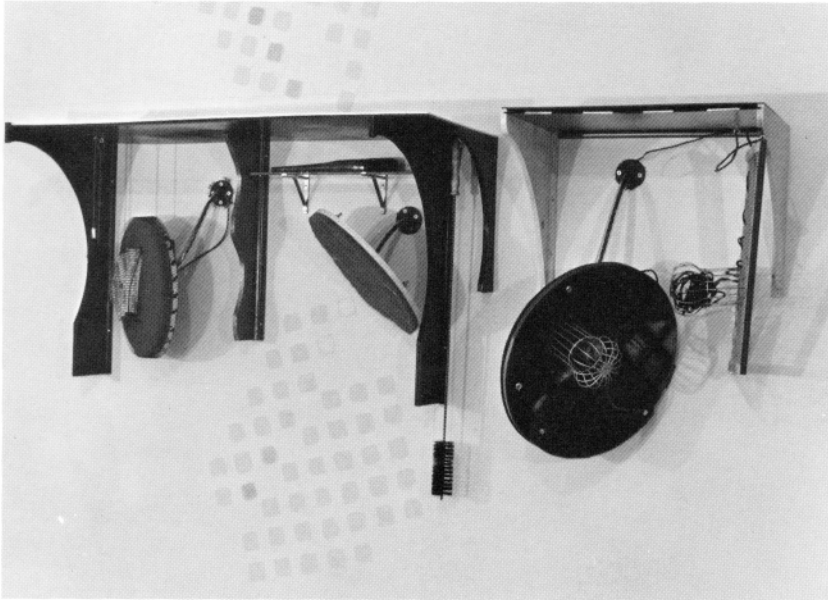


MATTHEW DE GENARO

MELINDA HUNT



MELINDA HUNT
wall constructions & drawings
MATTHEW DE GENARO
sculpture & drawings

March 11 - April 5, 1983

OPENING: FRIDAY, MARCH 11
5:30 - 8:30 PM

CONTEMPORARY ART WORKSHOP
542 W. Grant Place
Chicago, IL 60614
312/525-9624

Gallery Hours:
Monday - Friday 9:30 - 5:30
Saturday 12:00 - 5:00

This exhibition is funded in part by the Illinois Arts Council

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MELINDA HUNT MATTHEW DE GENARO

Contemporary Art Workshop
542 W. Grant Pl., 312/525-9624

Many of the objects and materials in Melinda Hunt's enigmatic drawings and wall constructions are familiar: can openers, soap dishes, trophies, obscure machine parts, small tools, and other bits of Americana. They are the refuse of low-tech society and its associated illusions about time and space. They are specific to our generation, which is meeting the much larger, more complex system of a future which promises to make these consumer goods obsolete. Nonetheless, they have been filtered down through the cultural process enough to become the raw material of esthetic inquiry.

Of the ten pieces on exhibit more than half were drawings. Even the wall constructions began as drawings. Hunt scrutinizes her subjects with the precision of an industrial draftsman. *Talking Soap*, for instance, resembles a machine drawing of a soap dish from various points of view.

In her collage-like constructions Hunt works directly on the wall, organizing otherwise unrelated elements into abstract statements of refined poetic quality. She characterizes her work as a strategic interplay of discrete elements. *Homefront*, for example, combines elements common to rustic suburbia: portions of lattice, bits of wire fencing, and painted areas are aligned with a can opener, an ice crusher, and a pattern of small brackets.

Hunt speaks in the language of the urban-industrial frontier. Enshrined in a staggered composition these pieces document our most cherished memories, a kaleidoscope of rich experience that reads like a narrative, re-tracing the paradox of the American way.

Matthew De Genaro's people are as diverse as the many materials of which they are composed. Their sole identity is derived from their physical substance. The figurines are in pairs, a male and a female. There are 25 of them. Each pair is unique in terms of material used and is titled accordingly. Some interesting examples were *Cast Rubber People*, *Fiberglass People*, *Twine and Wood People*, and *Sisal Wax People*.

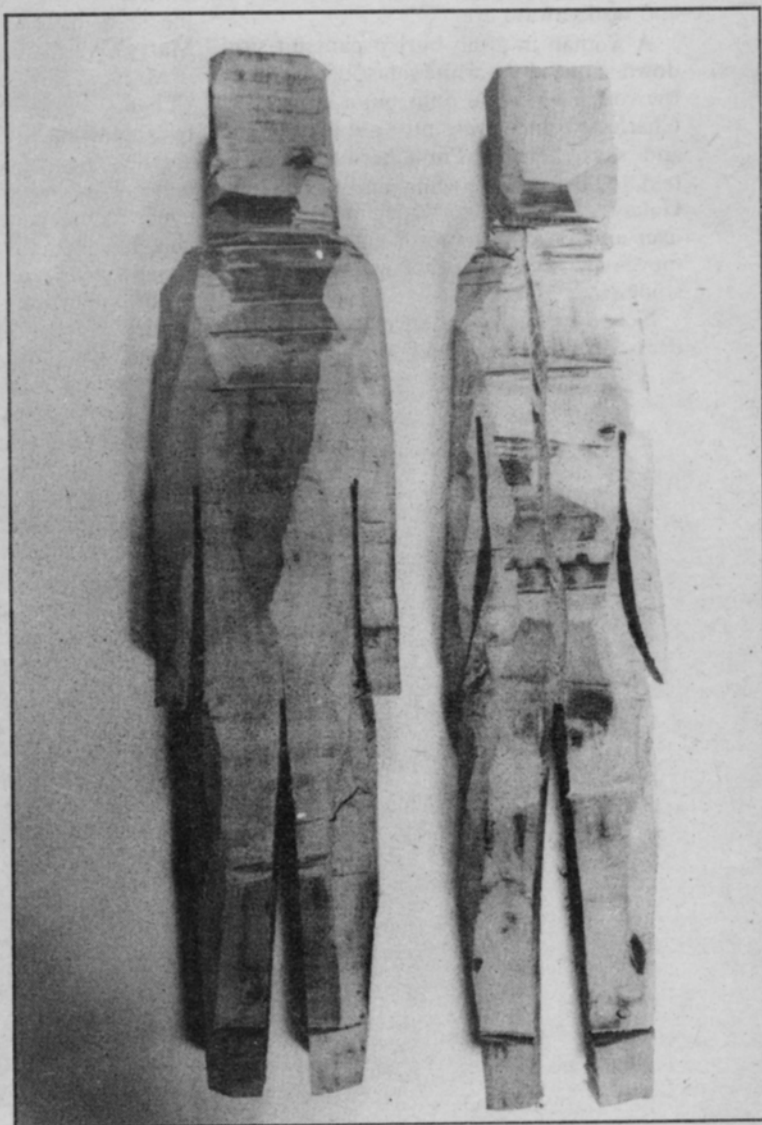
These figurines are conceived in the simplest of humanoid form; devoid of details, save those defining sex and stripped of all character, except for that of the materials used. Their broad diversity and crude design eliminates any consideration of formal styles. Even his four redundant drawings show the same disregard for technique. Both drawings and figurines, therefore, must be understood on a conceptual plane. If we isolated one set of figures, *Large Painted Wood People*, for example, it might suggest an archaic myth of origin. Taken together, they delineate a mythology of opposites, demonstrating the idea that separate entities can be united by the very thing that separates them. This, in fact, summarizes the thesis of the show which both artists handled with ingenious results.

LARRY QUEEN

READER

Friday, April 1, 1983 Volume 12, No. 26

CHICAGO'S FREE WEEKLY



Just five more days to see Matthew De Genaro's sculpture (including these guys) and constructions (made mostly of household objects) by Melinda Hunt at the Contemporary Art Workshop, 542 W. Grant Place - the show closes Tuesday. Details at 525-9624.

CAW support for artists

Contemporary Art Workshop will exhibit constructions by Melinda Hunt and sculpture by Matthew De Genaro from March 11 through April 5, 1983.

The shows opening reception is on March 11 from 5:30 to 8:30 pm.

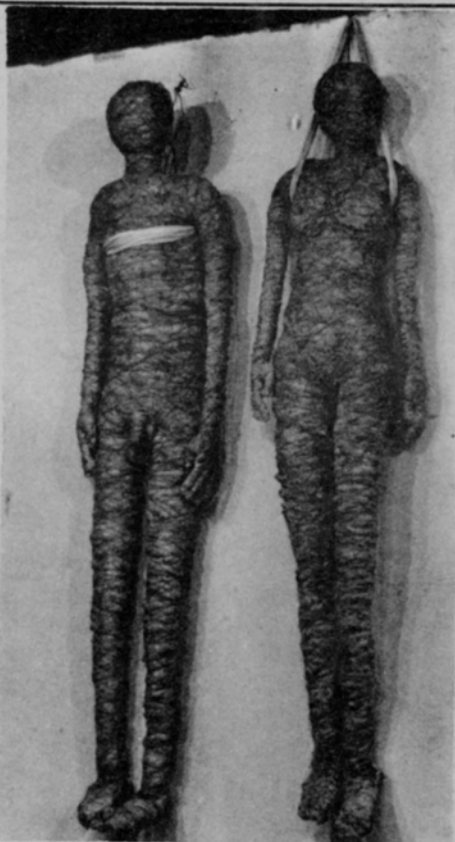
Melinda Hunt is from Oregon and constructs reliefs of household objects and materials, referring to patterns of daily living.

Emphasizing the microcosm of the home, the works evoke visual memories, personal and universal. Common artifacts of everyday life are rearranged and redefined, offering new vantagepoints of our culture. Hunt is vice president of ARC Gallery in Chicago.

Also from Oregon, Matthew De Genaro exhibits figurative sculpture, evocative of the distant past and portentous of a mythic future.

The life-size and miniature figures are based on personal myths and religious objects. De Genaro has exhibits mostly in the Northwest but studied at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago.

The Workshop is at 542 West Grant Place. Contemporary Art Workshop supports artists at the start of their careers and is open Monday through Friday 9:30 to 5:30 and Saturdays noon to



This is one of several DeGenaro sculptures on display at the contemporary workshop. It is a life-sized figurative sculpture.

5 pm. For further information contact Alex Nelson or Lynn Kearney at 525-9624.