Galleries By Edith Newho

Infusing useful objects with unexpected identities



Dean Smith's fastidiously drawn concentric lines are paired with Mark Sheinkman's erasure drawings at Gallery Joe.

Pencil to paper

Dean Smith, a Bay Area artist, and Mark Sheinkman, a Manhattan-based one, are well-matched in a two-person show at Gallery Joe: Smith's pulsing drawings are compositions of fastidiously drawn concentric lines; Sheinkman's undulating "drawings" develop through his erasures of his drawings.

Though abstract, Smith's obsessive drawings can resemble scallop shells, parts of the human body covered with hair, cross-sections of tree trunks, and other natural patterns. They're as labor-intensive and meditative as Tibetan sand painting, but also full of dark humor.

Sheinkman's erasure drawings are simpler than the works of his last show here. Images that used to suggest curls of smoke stolen from film-noir close-ups have given way to looping, less-referential forms. Curiously, they're more mysterious than ever.

Gallery Joe, 302 Arch St., 12 to 5:30 p.m. Wednesdays through Saturdays. 215-592-7752 or www.galleryjoe.com. Through April 30.