


1083
An East Village Review

JOHN FRANKLIN**Loughelton**

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Welcome to a world of touch-enticing but preciously presented objects. Immediately noticeable are the sensuous materials which in three pieces contrast with the severe surface of a partner object. In one pairing of two flat shieldlike shapes, one is sheathed in lead and its counterpart is covered with sheepskin. A second piece consists of a shield covered with stretched black fabric on which three concentric circles are sketchily painted. To its lower right is a vertical rectangle crossed by wide black and white stripes. The most engaging work in the show is titled "Drum," but to this viewer, it seems to be a huge square clock without hands or numbers. The face is canvas made taut by rabbit skin glue and edged with strips of cowhide. A wooden pendulum swings to the left, permanently in place. Because of that gravity-defying pendulum and the contrast of materials, this is a satisfying work and goes beyond the cleverness of the other pieces. Out of character in this exhibit are the tiny cast-iron forms of a woman's lower torso. A row of three of these forms, separately painted grey, red and black, rests on a pedestal, each torso supporting on one side a column of metal many times its height. An identical form, sans column and painted pink, is suspended at the end of what looks like a very long plant hanger. These pieces lack the humour, elegance and tactility of the other work. Unlike the other work which consists of deliberate contrasts, this work seems out of place.