



Best in Show

## Recommendations

by R.C. Baker

May 15th, 2007

Mark Wyse, Gordon Terry, Alexander Lee

Within the stretch of about 30 paces, three artists in three separate galleries form a strong (if unintentional) ménage. The Los Angeles-based Wyse (Wallspace, 619 W 27th, 212-594-9478) photographs the seams where life ripens into rot. In *Tangle* (2006), plump orange berries and juicy green stalks mingle with desiccated brown husks. Additional images—riotous vegetation engulfing cinderblock fences; a dented silver station wagon; the raw, red eruption from the mouth of a roadkill rodent—combine to capture Tinseltown's dissolute Eden. **Terry's paintings (next door at ATM, 619b W 27th, 212-375-0349) are as black as the La Brea Tar Pits, his darkly reflective acrylic grounds supporting abstract blooms that, like oil mixed with water, pool into discrete webs and runnels of color. Titles such as *Mr. Iboga*, *Mysterious Crop Formations*, and *the Approach of 2012 (when the Mayan calendar prophesizes the end of the world)* give the work the feeling of a drive-in theater showing trailers for the apocalypse.** A few steps away (Clementine, 623 W 27th, 212-243-5937), Lee's massive installation of blackened, glittery heaps studded with seared human limbs and scorched fish is a take on his native Tahiti's volcanic creation myth. Like a charging tsunami, molded plywood waves curve up to the ceiling, perhaps a promise of cleansing destruction. This threesome of death, regeneration, and spectacle makes for the perfect springtime stroll. Through May 26.