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GOINGS ON ABOUT TOWN: ART

"Bachelor Machines"

Borrowing its title from the landmark 1975 exhibition curated by the Swiss polymath Harald Szeemann, this brainy, penetrating group show looks again at the eroticism of technology and the Duchampian interplay of bodies and engines. A sculpture by Carissa Rodriguez outfits a womblike ceramic vase with razor blades; an assemblage by Justin Beal, incorporating a silver fruit dish on a paint-splattered mechanical base, bears the residues of life but no clear sign of it. Strongest of all are the paintings of James Hoff, who investigates culturally specific psychosomatic disorders: "Alien Hand Syndrome," for example, which turns a person's extremities ungovernable, as in "Dr. Strangelove." Through Feb. 2.

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