

Seattle Post-Intelligencer

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Hogan's photos take her fellow art students to school

Friday, May 14, 2004

Wild things make our hearts sing. In the photographic realm, Danielle Hogan's "Wild Things" dominate the group show they appear in, "Please Everyone" at Soil Art Collective.

"Please Everyone" features the work of eight students who are master's of fine art candidates at the University of Victoria in British Columbia. Hogan's work is so appealing it's unfair to the others, a ringer who upends the earnest production around her with her sly charm and formal rigor.

Hogan coats small stuffed animals in layers of cake frosting and sprinkles the tops with bright, jelly candies. She photographs these unlikely confections singly in pristine white space, where they lurch, sway and worm their way into our affections.

The stark whiteness of the space around these figures contributes considerably to their appeal, like silence surrounding a lovely musical note. Three photos hang at Soil, making a series: a whitish gnome; a skinny orange phallus dipping in from the top of the frame and making a left turn, and a multicolored monkey disguised as cake.

Aside from Hogan, Tanja Kunz's watercolor drawings are nice. They're fine-boned little biomorphic abstractions. One starts out as a piece of fruit, maybe a persimmon, and repeats itself in a series of shadows across the small space she gives it. Her painting, much larger, falls flat.

I'm not sure what the rest of these artists are doing, except possibly Leigh Bridges, who's obviously a skilled painter. I think she's catching the tail end of an exhausted trend. Personally, I've seen enough blurred interiors and landscapes to last a lifetime.

At Soil, 1317 E. Pine St. Through May 30. Hours: Thursdays-Saturdays, noon-5 p.m

-- Regina Hackett

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