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A Breath of Fresh Air in Chinatown

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by *Margaret Graham*

The first floor gallery of Art in General is a tiny space, flooded by natural light and an air of intellectual quietude, providing a lovely respite from the hot, commercial din of Canal St in summer. At present, the gallery is adorned with images and objects taken from seven local Chinese restaurants, half of an intriguing collaborative project by lowa-born artist Jason Bailor Losh, cleverly titled "Chinese Take Out."

The other half of the exhibition, located in the various restaurants from which the objects were taken, consists of similar pieces created by ten artists recruited by Losh. These pieces—more modern and personal than their displaced counterparts—invite reflection on the tenuous ties between memory and history, heritage and identity, context and meaning. In order to see the show in its entirety, and in order to comprehend just how an image or object can change when placed outside of its original location, the viewer must embark on an adventure, charting a course through the winding streets and steaming kitchens of Chinatown.

On view through July 2, Losh's show is well worth the trek. Not only is the concept fresh and inspiring, but the execution is quirky and smart, too. Nick Kramer's Jade Boat (2011) and Sara Chacich's I love New York(2011) work particularly well in their new, if temporary, homes. The rich, bustling, and aromatic environment of each restaurant infuses the works with an extra dose of insight and pathos and will leave you, if nothing else, with a fully wakened appetite.

"Chinese Take Out"

Jason Bailor Losh

Art in General

79 Walker St

New York, NY 10013

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