

GALLERY WATCH

Exhibits capture the hidden realities in objects, patterns

By Jeanne Claire van Ryzin

AMERICAN-STATESMAN ARTS CRITIC

Roy McMakin loves ordinary objects — he reveres them, celebrates them and devotes much energy to pondering how we choose to look at them.

In "A Breadbox and a Mug, Each Depicted in Sculpture and Photography" at Lora Reynolds Gallery through Jan. 15, the Seattle-based McMakin deconstructs two quotidian objects: a vintage black-and-white metal breadbox and a souvenir coffee mug from a Cape Cod diner. He digitally photographed every inch of both objects and then overlaid the images to create true-to-scale composites photographs, showing each side of the objects. But something interesting happens in the process: Three-point perspective flattens. Now, it's a breadbox and a mug at their most revealed, with dents, scratches and imperfections suddenly emphasized.

That would be an easy place to leave any aesthetic reconsideration of ordinary stuff — an ironic comment on the flaws we overlook in our everyday observation. But McMakin, whose Domestic Furniture Co. not only produces custom furniture but also takes on architectural design projects,



Roy McMakin makes the most of a coffee mug's artistic value at Lora Reynolds Gallery.

thankfully moves it one step further.

After all, he loves objects for their very objectness. And so with painstaking skill, he creates a scale replica of the breadbox from wood, precisely painted to match the real thing, then divides the replica into pieces, lovingly mounting each on the gallery wall. With the mug — also reproduced in wood, painted plain white and divided into pieces — the two seem to spring out of the gallery wall.

Behold, McMakin seems to say, a breadbox and a mug in all their ordinary and wonderful physicality.

Lora Reynolds Gallery, 300 West Ave. 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesdays-Saturdays. 715-4901. www.lorareynolds.com

'Pattern Pattern Pattern'

Celebrating pattern's abil-



The exhibit 'Pattern Pattern Pattern' at the Women & Their Work gallery in Austin includes 'Paper Trees' by married collaborators Jana Swec and Shea Little.

ity to reveal underlying (and hence overlooked) realities is the gist of the small group exhibit, "Pattern Pattern Pattern" at Women & Their Work through Saturday.

Husband-and-wife collaborators Jana Swec and Shea Little (yes, Women & Their Work is slowly opening up to men) take piles of paper — newsprint, mail order catalogs, magazines — and through rolling and papier-mâché, reform it all into the tree branches the paper ostensibly once was, mounting the stumpy branches with their colorful rings onto a wall intended to look like a stump. It's a crafty kids' project in recycling taken to an extreme — an extreme that's beautiful, sure, but it's sheer scale (the stump/wall is about 8 feet square) makes a forceful comment on contemporary consumption.

"Pattern" gets personal for Laura Paulini — obsessively personal. Once she begins one of her delicate watercolor and ink drawings — in which she repeats a fluid, tiny linear pattern again and again — she

doesn't stop until she's done, even if the drawing takes 24 hours. The resulting images are subtle, gorgeous explosions of pattern — their process an artistic exposé of the nature of human behavior.

It's hard to imagine anyone having more fun with pattern-making than Rosemarie Flore. The New York-based artist rigged up a Scrambler carnival ride with buckets of paint so that as the mechanical ride twirled and spun, paint sprayed onto vinyl tarps below, marking the loop and hypocycloid — paths left by a small circle rolling within a larger circle — patterns that result. In the current exhibit, a video shows Flore's twirling, paint-throwing contraption in action along with four large vinyl paint-covered "Scrambler Drawings."

It's an irreverent approach to art that makes for delightful, quirky viewing.

Women & Their Work, 1710 Lavaca St. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mondays-Fridays, noon to 5 p.m. Saturdays. 477-1084. www.womenandtheirwork.org. jvanryzin@statesman.com; 445-3599