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REVIEW

Sayre Gomez and Ruby Sky Stiller An Old Friend from the Future/Formal Exercise Sandroni Rev Gallery 2762 S. La Cienega Boulevard, Los Angeles

## An Old Friend from the Future/Formal Exercise

(310) 280-0111 www.sandronirey.com

mathematical conundrum made fun.

Two large Grecian ums supported by pedestals (one a fake rock with a perched pear) anchored the show and asserted an art-history lesson. Ruby Sky Stiler's ums are based on classical designs, an amphora used for wine and a bell-krater perhaps for olives. Stiler constructed mosaics out of meticulously fragmented and hot-glued foamcore parts mounted with book illustrations of Grecian ceramic painting. The images are beautifully calligraphic, not quite the handiwork of Greeks and Romans but perhaps that of a classically trained illustrator from the 1950s. Stiler cuts through the images, slicing and triangulating the foam core comprising her ums. The cobweb of hot glue string hangs like combed thinning hair,

revealing the trickiness of a style. Stiler's urns are impressive in scale and craft, symmetry, harmony, a

For their part, nine framed collages by Sayre Gomez bespoke art-education themes. Newspaper articles, magazine, and book cutouts are affixed to chalkboard-gray painted lines. "See what we learn and how we learn of art and the craft of clay, a building of an ideal, a paradigm of beauty . . . ." the collages seem to declare. As with Stiler's urns, Gomez's pieces metaphorically

suggest breaking apart our culture's art-educational system. They reorder formal canons and fit the elements preciously back into ridiculously school-esque materials.

Art foundations are taught as well-intended laws — laws later to be questioned, broken, and vandalized. That's what artists do, right? The problem for contemporary artists and teachers is similar to that of anthropologists, who study new cultures invariably through the prism of their own. We cannot escape our aesthetic context. Our Western acculturation and obsession fixes the center of our point of view like a magnetic pole or a hot glue gun gone awry. Even as we resist, we get more stuck.



Ruby Sky Stiller, Old Friend From the Future, foam, acrylic paint, Bristol board, wood, and hot glue, 78" x 34" x 35", 2008. Courtesy Joshua White.

## by Ceres Madoo