ART IN REVIEW

Events

Pictures of You
NYToday Pick, Gallery, Museum

04/03/02-05/19/02

Americas Society
Upper East Side
680 Park Ave.
New York, NY
(212) 249-8950

The exhibition features work by Inaki Bonillas, Minerva Cuevas, Mario Garcia-Torres and Yoshua Okon. The work employs and captures intrinsic sensorial and structural qualities of the pictorial.

'Pictures of You'

Americas Society
680 Park Avenue, at 68th Street
Manhattan
Through May 19

This exhibition is a sly update on "The Conceptual Trend: Six Artists From Mexico City" at El Museo del Barrio in 1997, though the work of these four artists, ranging in age from 21 to 32, is materially sparer and more elliptical this time around, with a focus on the art of making art about art.

Iñaki Bonillas's "10 Cameras Documented Acoustically" is as described in the title: through headphones you listen to the subtly different clicks and whirs of photographs being taken by cameras with different shutter speeds: the sound of pictorial technology in action. Mario García-Torres's "Gallery Store" appeals to other senses. The project includes a line of air freshener that smells like wet oil paint and a variety of wall paints made to complement art displays. (One is recommended for rooms showing two-dimensional objects against a wall, another for a room where performance art is taking place, and so on.)

The entire contents of Yoshua Okon's short video, "Presents," is made of the names of institutional cultural sponsors, from the National Film Commission of Mexico to the National Lottery, one flashing after the other. And as if in a grand effort to crack through the conceptual to the real in art, Minerva Cuevas films herself slowly chopping down what is supposed to be the wall of her studio to reveal a panoramic landscape on the other side. In fact, the demolished wall is little more than a movie prop and the landscape a projected photograph. Art, the point seems to be, is always a fiction, a matter of stage-managed ideas.

HOLLAND COTTER