

ARTnews

JANUARY 2008

FOCUS ON BROOKLYN

COURTESY THE ARTIST, DANIELO TURRAS, AND
PACSWR.DENSTENPHOTO.BECKON.ARWON



Tony Feher, *A Little Bird Told Me*, 2007,
cotton mason's line, plastic beverage bottles with caps,
water, and liquid watercolor, dimensions variable.
Public Art Fund at MetroTech Center.

'Everyday Eden'

Public Art Fund at MetroTech Center

The artists in this elegant group show, on view through next September 7, have taken an artificially natural setting—an urban park—and added an extra helping of human intervention. Tony Feher's bulbous clusters of plastic bottles, filled with pink water and draped over the forks in tree trunks, are man-made nests for catching and diffusing light. In the lobby of a nearby office building, Paula Hayes's gray silicone planters envelop large tropical plants like biomorphic booties. And Jedediah Caesar's floor sculptures suspend chunks of found wood in colored resin like fruit in a Jell-O mold.

The greatest transformation is Rob Fischer's *As Above, So Below* (2007). The artist outfitted a Dumpster with salvaged church windows and stood it on end, resurrecting it as a graceful architectural monument. At the top, a blocky configuration of metal supports juts out like the head of a toy robot. Fischer has turned an innocuous symbol of civil infrastructure into a fearsome, if slightly goofy-looking,

soldier for buried and forgotten goods—a giant junk savior ready to claim its turf.

If Fischer's sculpture is something of an architectural disguise, Nina Katchadourian's sound installation is a work of vocal cross-dressing. For the recording *Please, Please, Pleased to Meet'cha* (2006), Katchadourian invited U.N. translators to "sing" from birdcall notation. Their voices issue from speakers hidden in trees, imitating songs such as the common grackle's guttural, Cookie Monsterish fits and the gray catbird's tone-deaf "mayow." In a show whose works warp or embellish nature in some way, this interspecies game of telephone—in which a person imitates a bird that sounds like a cat—serves as a reminder that nature does a pretty good job of that itself.

—Lamar Clarkson