

Smith, Roberta, "Art in Review: Beverly Semmes", THE NEW YORK TIMES, 1 November 1991.

The New York Times

November 1, 1991

Art in Review

By ROBERTA SMITH

'Plastic Fantastic Lover (Object A)' Blum Helman Warehouse 80 Greene Street SoHo Through Nov. 16

This show of work by 21 women ranges from well-known artists like Rebecca Horn and Rosemarie Trockel to emerging artists like Angela Bulloch, Paula Hayes and Dominique Gonzalez-Foerster. Overall, it suggests that the medium of sculpture is attracting women in the 1990's much the way photography did in the 1980's, because it is rich in formal and often feminist possibilities.

The most impressive efforts involve a kind of visual exaggeration. Polly Apfelbaum presents an extended display of cheerleader pompons that highlights adolescent obsessions; Beverly Semmes's "Four Purple Velvet Bathrobes," 12 feet high, suggest that you can never be too thin or too tall, and Asta Groting, an artist from Germany, fills a silicon spiral with wood shavings, creating an Eva Hesse-like form of monumental proportions. Rona Pondick, Jessica Stockholder and Karen Kilimnick also make their presences felt. In many other instances, the work in this show is markedly undeveloped, but the exhibition overall is a definite sign of health: for women, for sculpture and so for art in general. Maybe painting will be next.