

# ARTFORUM

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I N T E R N A T I O N A L

BEST OF  
2003

## Robert Rosenblum

5 **Patricia Cronin, *Memorial to a Marriage*** (Woodlawn Cemetery, New York)  
Henry James might wince, were he to see this pathbreaking update to what he called “the white, marmorean flock.” After total immersion in nineteenth-century tomb sculpture, with an ear to the gossip about a colony of American lesbian sculptors who chiseled neoclassic nudes in Rome, Cronin resurrected these fantasies in a fresh offering to the supernatural: a monument to herself and her lover, the painter Deborah Kass, entwined like Victorian babes-in-the-wood. The supine half-naked bodies and classical draperies transcend mortal fact to become a lesbian *Liebestod*. Even more amazing is that this project found a home not in Woodstock but in Woodlawn, side by side with the tombs of all those straight, wealthy, tight-laced WASPs.



5. Patricia Cronin, *Memorial to a Marriage*, 2000–2002. Installation view, Woodlawn Cemetery, New York.