

The New York Times

Art in Review

Patricia Cronin and Lee Gordon

*Richard Anderson Fine Arts
476 Broome Street
SoHo
Through May 27*

These two artists are doing unorthodox figurative work in the underprivileged medium of watercolor. Patricia Cronin's images are transcriptions of her own Polaroids of herself and her female lover. Their nude or partially clothed bodies are viewed close up, flesh pressed against flesh, from the perspective of sexual intimacy. The results are both explicit and near-abstract compositions of breasts and thighs, bulges and folds, made especially arresting by the yellow and violet tints of the flesh.

In his witty self-portraits, Lee Gordon affixes his own bemused, world-weary face atop the bodies of young children, mostly female. From painting to painting we see a diminutive Mr. Gordon dressed in colorful sun dresses and pinafores, though certain details here and there, like a sinister-looking black leather mask pulled over his head, point to adult-style naughtiness along with the nice. If Ms. Cronin is a young artist to watch, Mr. Gordon, who is in his late 30's and has been doing good work for 15 years, is one to rediscover.

HOLLAND COTTER