

Swiss Institute

18 Wooster St
New York NY 10013
T 212 925 2035
www.swissinstitute.net

The New York Times
October 26 2012
Karen Rosenberg

The New York Times

Art in Review

Whitney has just opened a retrospective of Richard Artschwager, whose trompe l'oeil formica chairs and tables winkingly equate art with décor, and household objects and DIY practices are popping up in the assemblages of young artists like Martin Soto Climents and Anicka Yi.

The Armleder show — organized by the Swiss Institute's director, Gianni Jetzer, with the artist, and flawlessly installed — is also a lesson in local history. It reprises parts of Mr. Armleder's solo exhibitions from the 1980s, which took place at the John Gibson Gallery at Broadway and Prince Street, in SoHo, and might even be taken as a clever riposte to the neighborhood's current glut of high-end design stores.

Some works are reconstructed from memory, like "Furniture Sculpture 185 with Stéphane Armleder"; like the 1988 original, it evokes a dressing room at Brooks Brothers, with two suits that hang from a three-way mirror. Yuppie culture gives way to surfer cool in a surviving work from the same year; here, three artisanal surfboards are flanked by tonal paintings that draw out their sleek, striped patterns.

A few single-item works make clever use of existing architecture, like the plush pet bed affixed to one wall, or the table plastered to the lower-level gallery ceiling. But Mr. Armleder has a real gift for Fluxus-inspired juxtapositions, like the geometric canvas that hangs beside a Marshall amplifier; its wedges of neon yellow and green hit like power chords.

KAREN ROSENBERG

John M Armleder

'Selected Furniture Sculptures
1979-2012'

Swiss Institute
18 Wooster Street, SoHo
Through Sunday

The timing couldn't be better for this survey of John Armleder's pithy "furniture sculptures," which mix functional objects with casual abstract artworks. The