



## Regional Roundup: San Francisco

by Laura Richard Janku

**SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 14, 2007**—Our correspondent in Northern California walks us through some of the best museum and gallery exhibitions on view in San Francisco this month, including an all-female group show at Mills College that rechannels the whole of art history; Jon Pylypchuk's anthropomorphic sculptural creatures at Jack Hanley; and a solo exhibition by Li Jin full of gastronomic delights.

### **Ratio 3** "Mitzi Pederson: thirtythree days" Through March 6, 2007

**Mitzi Pederson**, a recent winner of the **SECA Art Award** from **SFMOMA**, relies on three simple strategies to deliver surprising, dynamic sculptures: physical tension, contrast and everyday materials.

The wall works at **Ratio 3** are variations on a theme: reflective paper bent into half-pipes or demi-funnels, the open edge bridged with sheets of clear colored acrylic secured with aluminum tape. In the larger pieces, this unit is mounted to the top edge of a plywood rectangle and features a dangling acrylic strip, a sheet independently affixed or bulwarked from the funnel to the plywood.

Other smaller pieces work within similar parameters, but instead of using wood are affixed gingerly to the wall by single pins. These few points of security serve as the source of great energy, heightened by the sense of the imperative suggested by titles such as *Then do what you must* and *I wish I may*. Similarly, the contrast between the hardworking plywood and the glossy chromatic and reflective surfaces create another visual paradox.

The ubiquity of Pederson's chosen materials underscores the contrast between (and current art-world obsession with) high and low art, and craftwork and fine art. The paper's distortion, emphasized by its reflexivity, suggests different ways of seeing everyday materials—both literally and metaphorically.