

THE BOSTON GLOBE

Arts & Reviews

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2006

**Patrick Strzelec:
Drawings and a Sculpture**

At: OH+T gallery, 450 Harrison Ave.,
through Oct. 7. 617-423-1677.

Noodling around

"Drawings and a Sculpture," Patrick Strzelec's dark and playful show at OH+T gallery's new storefront digs on Thayer Street, is misnamed; there are actually three sculptures. It's not clear whether two of them — giant, noodly mounds of rubber on aluminum disks — function as one work or as two. They're listed as two, but referred to in the press release as "an untitled floor piece." The ambiguity fits for this show, which seems to be all about the tentative, fraught nature of relationship and the balancing act between individuals and the groups they make up.

Strzelec takes a child's pleasure in tactile material, color, and deliberately messy form. The wormy tangles of rubber in Crayola red and yellow are both inviting and forbidding. They seem to leer at and tease each other. What a mess they would make if the two got snarled together. His drawings, in glistening silicone platinum on paper, look as if Strzelec has taken a spoon out of melted candy and deliciously dribbled it, mostly in groups of circular forms that hover near one another but don't touch.

The one exception is the third sculpture, a sleek, minimalist seesaw with powder-blue seats on either end of a steel arc, which makes a subtle S-curve. Here the messiness is merely implied: If you got on the teeter-totter with a partner, the two of you might be in for a crash landing.



Patrick Strzelec uses wormy tangles of rubber — in Crayola colors — that are both inviting and forbidding.