

VOICE CHOICES

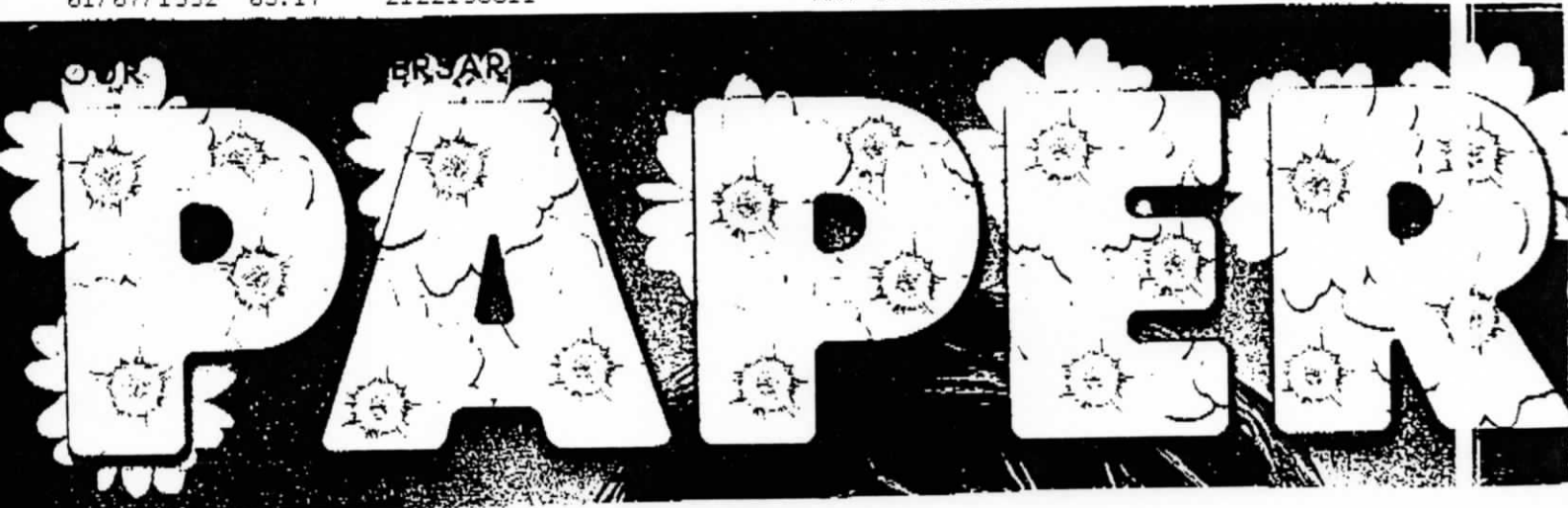


REVIEWS BY KIM LEVIN
UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED

❖ **Recommended**

Downtown

YONG SOON MIN: "Bridge of No Return," a solo exhibition of installations, sculpture, and photographs by the Korean-born artist whose robotic bride won hearts at the Queens Museum a few years ago. Through 6/27. **Art in General**, 79 Walker, 219-0473.



GALLERY GO 'ROUND

ART UNDER SURVEILLANCE. By Victoria Pedersen

Yong Soon Min can be considered a political artist in that she uses the rift in her homeland of Korea as the springboard for her work. But this is not political art in the ordinary sense: it deals in metaphor, not only polemic. North and South Korea were divided in the 50's, and over the years two separate cultures have developed from one erstwhile whole. Prisoners of war were forced to choose one side or the other, hence the title of Min's show, "Bridge of No Return." Here she has reinvented the country as both a political entity and a body, a living organism with a past, present and future. A blend of whimsy and edginess makes this show compelling: dominating the space is a large, sinuous wall shaped like the curve of the yin-yang, a symbol of balance and harmony. It represents the division between North and South Korea and the new identities spawned from that division. The structure itself is constructed of wire fencing, to which has been affixed a 24-hour clock, magnets featuring comments

from the capitalist South and the socialist North and delicate color Xeroxes of images from books, magazines and newspapers. Among the works exploring the personal body are *Dwelling*, a delicate white *hanbok*, a traditional Korean dress, which is suspended from the ceiling. The transparent fabric reveals fragments of text beneath the skirt, as well as tree branches that form the spine of this ghostly garment. Boundary issues and identity politics in art have become less commonplace of late, but Min proves that life, both personal and political, is the stuff that art is made of. **Art in General, 79 Walker St., through June 27.**

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voice choices

ART |

YONG SOON MIN "Bridge of No Return" is the title of this smart solo exhibition of installations, sculpture, and photographs by a Korean-born artist whose postfeminist (and post-Duchampian), robotic bride stole hearts at the Queens Museum a few years ago. Bridging Korean tradition, global culture, and artworld trends—with a series of *Belly Talk* photoworks, a roomful of projections and plastic planet balloons, and a curvy yin/yang wall that symbolizes the DMZ—this show proves she's after our minds too. Through June 27, Art in General, 79 Walker Street, 219-0473. (Levin)