

The Miami Herald

TROPICAL LIFE



Visual Arts

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2012

gallery show **X3**

Exhibitions explore gamut — from gender benders and plywood to day laborers



Platonic Coffee Table (Large), 2012: Emmett Moore's work at Gallery Diet is made of Sapele plywood, glass, mirror.

By Tom Austin
Special to The Miami Herald

Galleries are the plankton of the art world — feeding museum shows, auctions and the frenzy of the art market. And throughout South Florida, galleries are stepping up to the aesthetic plate. Many of the exhibitions currently on view are resolutely conceptual, dense and/or impenetrable, though they all have visual rewards and, here and there, a chuckle or two.

Gallery Diet

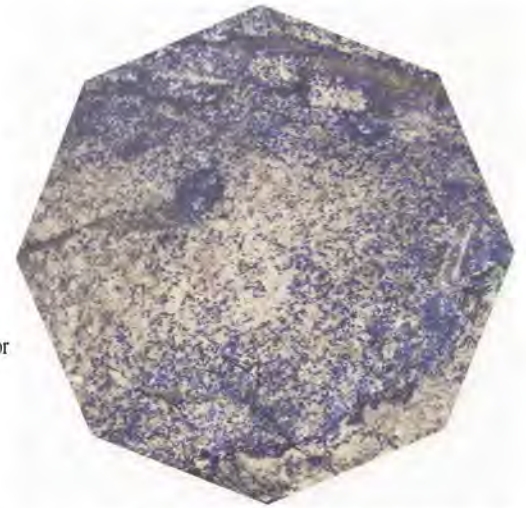
In Miami, Wynwood's Gallery Diet has a penchant for the deeply theoretical, and the newest show there — *Surface Tension* — has all kinds of things going on. The artist, Emmett Moore, has a BFA in furniture design from the Rhode Island School of Design. His work examines the process of construction, the play between surface and structure. Formica and plywood is cut on a slant, revealing layers in the material. Birch plywood panels have acid-trip imagery digitally printed on the surface. A Platonic Coffee Table (Large) is made of Sapele plywood, glass and mirror: the bottom of the diamond-shaped table is open and reveals the floor. On a tour of *Surface Tension*, Moore pointed to several pieces and noted, "These are exquisite corpses of materials. I don't know if there's a connection, but I think they could be friends."

In the Projects Room at Diet, Moore collaborated with two friends — Chris Johnson, based in London, and Conor Klein, of Brooklyn — on a whimsical show. It includes objects that were created in Miami, such as a cafeteria tray with faux food of Styrofoam, crystals and rubber. For other pieces, such as collages made from magazine ads, the artists mailed materials back and forth to one another, each artist adding something to the work. Moore seems to be everywhere lately: He does art direction at The Standard Miami and will be working with the hotel on a series of pop-up exhibitions during Art Basel Miami Beach. And, along with artist Consuelo Castaneda, he is creating an environment for Miami Art Museum's New Work Miami 2013 exhibition, launching during this year's Art Basel.

To Moore, his work on the New Work Miami exhibition is a way to keep the show rooted in Miami. "We haven't really figured it all out yet, but this will be a way to establish situations and context between the artists in the New Work show, as well as work with the abstracted vernacular of Miami, such as glass brick, plants and Miami baroque-mansions architecture."



'Bubble Room, 2012:' Collaboration by Emmett Moore, Chris Johnson and Conor Klein at Gallery Diet.



'Granite Octagon (Natural):' Moore's rock is birch plywood