

FRIDAY, JANUARY 13, 2006

Guillaume Pinard

Team

527 West 26th Street, Chelsea

Through Jan. 28

Guillaume Pinard's strange, funny and skillfully made black ballpoint drawings on graph paper, often featuring doll- or puppet-like characters developed under the influence of Gumby, the Muppets and Japanese anime, evoke a childlike mind preoccupied by monsters, natural and human violence and surrealistic conjunctions and transformations. Blob-headed figures, tornadoes, flaming comets, exploding pieces of lumber, a volcano made of hair, a woman having sex with an amorphous black monster, burning bodies, a gunshot victim slumped in a corner: these and others evoke a wildly volatile world in which innocence is constantly being tested by things primitive, perverse and evil. The nearly 100 drawings include fragmentary sketches, doodles, studies and cohesive images ready for translation into some other final form.

The show also includes four videos; the most fully realized — an enchanting 16-minute, digitally animated narrative — is in a crisp linear style with bright flat colors. It follows the wordless adventures of a pair of cute eyeballs, each with arms and legs, as they journey through constantly changing landscapes and architectural situations.

This show leaves you wondering what the future holds for Mr. Pinard, who is in his mid-30's and lives in France. He could become a big mainstream success as a cartoonist and maker of animated films, or he could stay in the fine-art world and pursue more idiosyncratic ideas for a smaller but more discerning audience. Or, like the Japanese art star Takashi Murakami, he might do both.

KEN JOHNSON