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Art in Review

Wallpaper LAB

Lennon, Weinberg
514 West 25th Street, Chelsea
Through Oct. 14

Proving that we have come a long way since Jackson Pollock's drip paintings were derisively likened to apocalyptic wallpaper, this lively exhibition features 15 artists trying their hands at designing real wallpaper. It unveils the first collection of Wallpaper LAB, a company founded last year by Ron Keyson, a former art dealer. The results are mixed, and the digital nature of the printing doesn't suit everyone. Still, it is interesting to see artists transfer their ideas to another medium, especially one with a decorative function.

Phoebe Washburn has opted for a large close-up that suggests one of her jerry-built installation pieces: a shingled expanse of small, irregular squares of plywood that could be slightly oppressive to live with. Douglas Gordon makes the gigantic tiny by enlarging stills from his famous video of an elephant alone in a room into a grid of small images, all different. Christopher Daniels settles on a mural-like view of a populous cartoon landscape divided by a bright blue river.

The design by a young artist named A. J. Bocchino is especially striking. Working from microfilm, Mr. Bocchino chose one headline from the front page of The New York Times every day from Jan. 1, 1990, to Dec. 31, 2005. He then color-coded the headlines by subject (red for Iraq, purple for poverty, for example) and arranged them chronologically in strips. Now, quite a bit of the news recently fit to print can also be fit to your walls, should you so desire. The fonts are almost actual size.

ROBERTA SMITH