

GLADSTONE GALLERY

"Brigit Jürgenssen," *The New Yorker*, November 20, 2014

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ART

BIRGIT JÜRGENSSEN

What little attention has been paid to this Austrian artist, who's usually considered alongside her more extroverted compatriot Valie Export, has concentrated on her feminist photographs from the seventies. But Jürgenssen, who died in 2003, aged fifty-four, had a wide-ranging body of work. This instructive show includes such surreal sculptures as a white papier-mâché horse topped by a finger-shaped velvet rider, a wire bird's nest on a tripod, and a giant matchstick with a man's face. Her later assemblages, of low-contrast photographs printed on fabric and screwed to iron borders, draw their force from apposition: in one case, silver gears frame a woman in a unicorn costume, melding the erotic with the mechanical. Through Dec. 20.

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McCaffrey