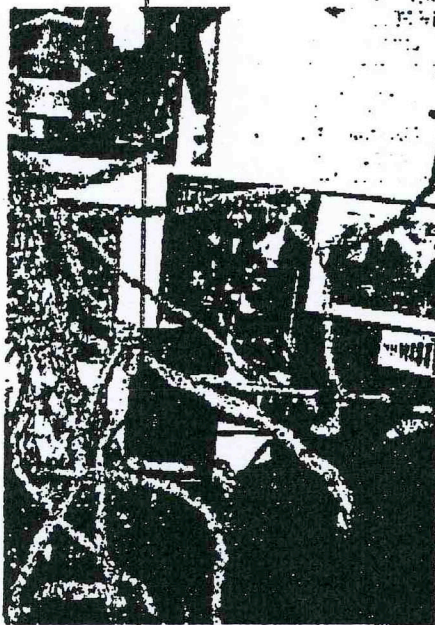


# GLADSTONE GALLERY

Currah, Mark, "Thomas Hirschhorn Chisenhale," *Time Out New York*, December 1998



## Thomas Hirschhorn

**Chisenhale** (Upcoming)

Swiss artist, Thomas Hirschhorn has transformed each corner of the gallery into a grotto, though no Santas are in evidence. These 'World Corners' are variations on a dystopian theme. On each

for culture, religion, economy and politics, they all present a world of trash and trivia.

Aluminium foil is the principal material; roughly formed coils of it connect disparate elements and draw improbable organic networks on the wall, and each corner is linked by cables of foil strung, like telephone lines, on poles. Excessive quantities of brown tape attach the poles to the floor. Cardboard and cling film are the other unpromising materials used to make shabby sculptures, while pages from magazines and fluorescent tubes provide colour and glamour.

But beneath the trash, there's some subtle organisation going on. Among the foil and the magazine pages, each corner has an amorphous cardboard sculpture, a video monitor and fan heaters blowing flags. Differences of content are negligible. 'Religion' has celebrity pictures of Gandhi and the Pope, plus lurid articles on weird cults. 'Culture' has pictures of the Spice Girls and the Queen plus a fevered piece on tortured genius. 'Economy' and 'Politics' both contain military hardware in model form. The subtext is the power of the media. The corners look identical because the artist's only resource is the corner-shop; this provides both materials and tabloid ideas. Hirschhorn's work may look jokey and slight, but there's a bitterness concealed at its clever heart. *Mark Currah*