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ART REVIEW/Helen A. Harrison

28 Long Island Artists: Recent Works

Nese Alpan Gallery, 1499 Old Northern Blvd., Roslyn. through Jan. 11. 484-7238.

The show includes a number of intriguing works, some of them especially notable for their esthetic finesse. A white-on-white canvas by Susan Kornblum is a study in textural subtlety. Its plastery surface is animated by raking light that brings out the staccato rhythms of its hills and valleys. In contrast, the dark translucence of Nola Zirin's "Lunar Trip" invites the viewer to penetrate its mysterious depths.

"Alpha Series II," a painted collage by Frank Wimberley, involves more literal layering. Radiant color, veiled by milky washes, seems to lurk in hiding until it can emerge in vibrant gestures that focus pictorial energy at the painting's core. The cover of Chris

Coffin's "Container for 10 Drawings" holds vials of the unlikely media for his works on paper, which record the action of sea water on iron dust. The result is a series of rusty stains that are as sensuous as they are enigmatic.

Among the artists who combine technical skill with representational content, Helen Meyrowitz stands out for her lively drawing, "Hat Spill," a baroque cascade of chapeaux that doffs a feminine topper to Max Ernst's "The Hat Makes the Man." Clothing with more sinister overtones is the stuff of Katie Seiden's touching *memento mori*, "John and Patsy Ramsey Recall JonBenet," a valise full of tiny costumes like those worn by the murdered girl.

In an even more explicit indictment of human cruelty, Lois Polansky's mixed-media sculpture, "A Babe of Chance," examines the fate of one child who stands for thousands of malnourished Somalian refugees. Treading a fine line between documentation and interpretation, the work manages to balance its polemic with artistic devices that downplay outrage in favor of empathy. Unfortunately a corny skeletal hand mars an otherwise sensitive treatment of a painful subject.