

the village VOICE

VOICE CHOICES

Art

AFRIKA: Sergei Bugaev (a/k/a Afrika), sometimes collaborating with Sergei Anufriev or Timor Novikov, mixes motifs from the Russian avant-garde with Soviet poster imagery, pictographic department store signs, and nostalgic Russian tchotchkes (decrepit velvet, needlepoint, antimacassar lace). The 26-year-old Leningrad artist deconstructs by embellishing, and sums up 70 years of failed history. It's a surprisingly mature show, the "Anti-Lissitzky Series" makes sense and *Rebus* (bronze on silicone) is a gem. Through June 14, Queens Museum of Art, New York City Building, Flushing Meadows Corona Park, Flushing, 718-592-9700. (Levin)

HANS HAACKE: "The Vision Thing" is terrific: a derelict sofa (read the embroidered sampler), a shopping cart crammed with Desert Storm teddy bears, a toppled bottle rack, the hurricaned Bushes in a Walker Evans-like photo-op, and more add up to a homeless installation indicting governmental carelessness. In the other room, a phalanx of empty lockers confront a new presidential portrait. Read its lips. Through May 16, John Weber Gallery, 142 Greene Street, 966-6115. (Levin)

RICHARD PRINCE: The artist who invented rephotography has a mid-career survey of 15 years' worth of purloined images, and the timing is perfect. His synthetic sunsets, stolen cowboys, generic starlets, rearranged biker "gangs," redrawn sexist cartoons, rewritten punch lines, car hood monochromes, and other cruel jokes are all here, all looking much better than they have any right to. Ambiguous, disaffected, accessible, and incomprehensible, his dry work—filtering the dregs of low culture—is best when it's most dysfunctional. Through July 12, Whitney Museum of American Art, 945 Madison Avenue, at 75th Street, 570-3633. (Levin)

VOICE May 13, 1992