

# BIPOLART



BIPOLART presents NADA Hudson Installation by Andy Barrett (2011)

“Carton marquetry” is the term used by artist Andy Barrett to describe his collage work technique, wherein he assembles cardboard cut-outs from discarded packaging found on the NYC streets—everything from Singha beer cartons to Abyssinia Tea and the Bowflex fountain. For five years this fascination with cardboard prints and cut-outs has fueled a body of work that distorts their found origins and plays with found again fonts, strange logos, cast off colors, pictograms, the architecture of a street shelters, on-package instructions and diagrams, and the general graphics and calligraphy of New York’s ethnic neighborhoods as it overlaps the city’s recycling ecosystem. Barrett’s work isn’t just a system of cardboard, it’s a recycling system that processes collage and craft work traditions more generally, and this is echoed in the works’ formal qualities: although they are flat works, they are more built than drawn, and each provides a homegrown, DIY clarity into the ongoing system of built and re-built New York. In his more recent explorations, Barrett’s work has gone from pastoral Mandalas, cartoon archeology, industrial narratives and full spectrum maps to techno or pop explosions, with his latest work morphing off the flat surface entirely and into three dimensional sculpture pieces that double as time capsules: working cardboard chandeliers and lamps, and the explosive bonfire installation created site-specific for NADA Hudson.

*Tan Lin*