

Time Out New York

Cornelia Parker, *Rorschach* (*Accidental III*)



D'Amelio Terras, through Feb 19
(see Chelsea)

Fans of sculptor Dario Robleto's way with meaning-soaked materials might find something to admire in the work of one of his senior gallery stablemates, Cornelia Parker. Previous projects by the British artist have seen her make drawings in ink distilled from confiscated porn videos, and craft earplugs from fluff harvested in the Whispering Gallery of St. Paul's Cathedral. Here she presents a single sculpture, consisting of an array of silver-plated objects crushed by an industrial steamroller. The 50-odd artifacts—musical instruments and bits of fancy tableware—are suspended a few inches above the floor by microfilaments, a placement that underlines their transformation from fully rounded to almost flat. They're arranged in a loose symmetrical design that jibes with the title's (tangential) allusion to the infamous personality test.

Parker has long been fascinated by the cartoonlike violence of which *Rorschach (Accidental III)*, and other works in its series, is the material remains. The alteration that these tubas and trumpets, knives and forks have undergone is so extreme as to feel almost unreal, and our initial reaction is laughter. Yet the squashed items retain their identities even as they are rendered nonfunctional; far from being "divorced from their previous lives," as the gallery's statement has it, their cultural ties are amplified by their fate.

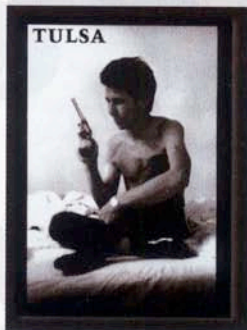
In the artist's native England, brass and silver bands have a strongly proletarian association, while ornate candelabras lord over the other end of the scale. *Rorschach* is thus both a formal and associative mash-up, at once compelling and confused.—Michael Wilson



Installation view



Critics' picks ALL FREE
The five best art happenings this week



1 Larry Clark, *Tulsa*
Luhring Augustine

The famed director and photographer turned the lens onto his own life at an early age, finding subjects both poignant and harrowing; this early film depicts friends and lovers, and presages the subjects of Clark's later works. ▶ **Through Feb 5; see Chelsea**

2 Cornelia Parker
D'Amelio Terras

Cartoon deaths are among the inspirations for Parker's recent installation pieces, including this one, which features a variety of household objects squished nearly to two dimensions and presented in a shimmering, suspended cluster. ▶ **Through Feb 19; see Chelsea**

3 "Italian Paintings from the 17th & 18th Centuries"
Sperone Westwater

The gallery offers a refreshing change of pace with this historical show; come for a chance to see work by Artemisia Gentileschi, one of the most celebrated female artists of the Baroque period. ▶ **Through Feb 19; see Lower East Side/East Village**



4 Kai Althoff
Gladstone Gallery

The German painter imbues the simplest of objects with emotional undercurrents; the characters in his paintings are often engaged in activities vaguely determined by the setting but not entirely defined by it. ▶ **Sat 15–Mar 5; see Chelsea**

5 Seth Price
Audio Visual Arts and Friedrich Petzel Gallery

Stretch your legs with a crosstown walk and a rare opportunity to experience sound and video work by this artist, celebrated for his bizarre approach to pop culture. ▶ **Record launch: Audio Visual Arts, Fri 14; see Events. Exhibition: Friedrich Petzel Gallery, through Feb 12; see Chelsea**