

ART

REVIEWS

Elena Dorfman at the Schneider Gallery through July 7

Martina Nehrling at the Zg Gallery through June 3

Keysouk Geum and Jin Dian Shi at the Andrew Bae Gallery through June 17

By Alan G. Artner

Tribune art critic

Keysouk Geum and Jin Dian Shi's wire sculptures at the Andrew Bae Gallery show levels of patience and craft that are largely missing from contemporary art created in the West.

Geum, a Korean textile artist, began making wire sculptures as clothing in the 1990s at the behest of a Korean singer. That led to work for dance and theater companies as well as her first exhibition of the pieces in 2004. The present show will be the last to feature her sculptures in the form of clothing.

All the works on view are made from recycled materials such as discarded commercial wires and silk remnants. Geum wraps the wires with paper, adding silk bows and various kinds of beads. The results are intricate, open-work webs suspended as if bodies are filling them. Several have been worn, though the artist intends an audience to perceive the movement and gesture in the pieces apart from function. They have breathtaking fragility.

Her Chinese colleague's sculpture is all of stainless steel wire worked to achieve countless minute details. The subjects thus far—the artist is relatively new to the practice—involve means of conveyance: actual-size reproductions of pairs of running shoes and bicycles plus a lone motorcycle. So high a degree of accuracy is often diminished in the West as mere craft, though it is phenomenal workmanship nonetheless.

At 300 W. Superior St., 312-335-8601.

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