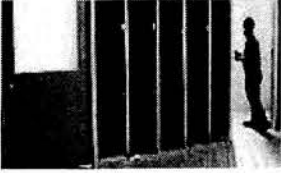


New Year's Spice

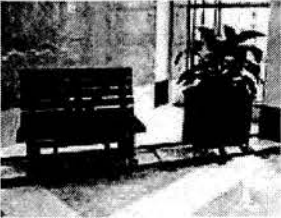
by Paul Laster

Public art at MetroTech

For the seventh year in a row, the Public Art Fund has installed a group of new works in the downtown Brooklyn development known as MetroTech Center. "New Urban Sculpture," as the show is titled, featured commissions by five artists. The Australian James Angus literally throws the commission out the window with the fantastic *Basketball Dropped from 35,000 Feet at Moment of Impact*. Realized with the help of a computer-aided design system, Angus' bronzed Spaulding is an eerie simulation of a collision that remains forever frozen in time. The ball can be in your court for \$4,500 at Gavin Brown's Enterprise.



Lisa Hein and Bob Seng
Exit Exit
1996
at Flipside



Kristen Mosher
Local Park Express
1999
at MetroTech

Equally awesome in this towering sprawl of downtown Brooklyn is Jason Middlebrook's *Grand Entrance at the Commons*. Middlebrook built a false facade of carved and painted Styrofoam that suggests a gateway to suburbia -- a metaphoric portal for those travelers who envision a rosy lifestyle beyond the city's congested streets. And to help you make the trip, simply take a seat on Kirsten Mosher's *Local Park Express*. With a park bench and floral planter on scaled-down railway tracks, this imaginary commute can take you wherever your heart desires.



James Carl
Dupes
1999
at MetroTech

If you're still trying to get where you're going as night falls, be sure to take note of Sharon Loudon's *Tangled Tips*, a sculptural lighting project visible at the tops of several trees in the common. Made from luminescent wires that brightly glow in blue, this gestural installation casts a supernatural impression of electric snakes moving through an urban jungle.

The art installations extend into the lobby of the MetroTech 1 building, where Canadian artist James Carl shows off his handiwork in the form of cardboard replicas of an ATM machine, an airport X-ray machine and a Fed Ex drop box. Carl's witty *Dupes* are meticulously crafted surrogates of familiar urban objects. An indoor garden version of Kirsten Mosher's *Local Park Express* can also be found here, along with Walter Martin and Paloma Munoz's three surrealistic *Trees*, held over from a previous exhibition.



Tony Matelli
Stray Dog
1998
at MetroTech

Brooklyn artist Tony Matelli, last seen in a solo exhibition at Stefano Basilico's now-closed gallery in SoHo, unleashes an apprehensive allegory with *Stray Dog*, an uncanny replica of a yellow Labrador retriever fitted with a lead for a blind master. Matelli's polymerized seeing-eye pooch seemingly wanders the Commons, lost without his missing and dependent companion.

PAUL LASTER is an artist who lives in Brooklyn.

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