

New York, New York

FROM THE BIG APPLE

White Box

Majority Whip

Original works on paper and a collaborative mock-court installation by 42 young artists filled White Box for "Majority Whip." Organizers Kathy Grayson and Laura Tepper invited emerging newcomers and many from New York's youngest gallery set, including Assume Vivid Astro Focus, Scott Hug of the gallery-friendly zine *K48*, and wonder child Keegan McHargue, to refashion the gallery space into an imaginary U.S. Senate interior. But the interpersonal sincerity and patent narrative caricature in Chris Johanson's populist paintings most clearly inspired this politically sighted East-Coast-meets-West-Coast endeavor. Rather than triggering buzz terms like 'globalization' or 'activism' with now-standard documentary and video conventions, the artists in "Majority Whip" used their political imaginations to sug-

gest an amalgamation of counter-cultural sensibilities, often with a latent punk rock do-it-yourself exuberance. Post-hippie comes to mind too, particularly with the psychedelic, neo-primitivist collages and sculpture by Justin Samson. Samson's tall spear structure made with diamond shaped yarn figures (better known at summer camps and crafts fairs as 'god's eyes') resembled a handmade Washington Monument. Brendan Fowler, who performs as BARR, avoided overt '60s protest nostalgia, but in a similarly idealistic vein drew ecstatic lyrics and motivational slogans ("Resounding Yes!") that radiated an infectious optimism.

—Matt Wolf

MATT LEINES, *Flag of the Men with the Lightning Fists*, 2004. Acrylic on paper, 20 x 25 cm. Courtesy of White Box, New York.

