

THE NEW YORKER
GOINGS ON ABOUT TOWN

ART

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GALLERIES-CHELSEA

THOMAS ASHCRAFT / TINA GIROUARD

Two little-known artists—chosen, respectively, by Bruce Nauman and Susan Rothenberg—impress, and one delights. Ashcraft, a New Mexican bricoleur who has skirted fame by choice, shows tiny, science-y setups and thimble-theatrical tableaux, spotlit in a darkened room. The concepts are odd but precise—a proposal for artistic surgical scars, memories of a grandfather who seemed able to cure warts by, more or less, unthinking them. Ashcraft's methods are intricate but never fussy; they galvanize imagination. Girouard, a veteran of the nineteen-seventies and eighties New York avant-garde who has since lived and worked in Louisiana and Haiti, gets a pocket retrospective of decorative works in wallpaper, sequined embroidery, and linoleum, among other stuffs, that fill physical space with cool and stirring social poetry. Through Jan. 29. (CUE, 511 W. 25th St. 212-206-3583.)



The bricolage of the New Mexican artist Thomas Ashcraft is on display at CUE.