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## Art in Review

### Nava Lubelski

*LMAKprojects*

*139 Eldrige Street, at Delancey  
Street, Lower East Side*

*Through Feb. 15*

Nava Lubelski's stained, punctured and stitched canvases qualify as fiber art (her embroidery on a sullied tablecloth was a highlight of "Pricked" at the Museum of Arts and Design). But as her latest solo show suggests, Ms. Lubelski is also in a category of artists who "paint" with thread, including Ghada Amer and Michael Radecker.

Working with hand and machine embroidery on ink-splashed and torn muslin, Ms. Lubelski calls attention to the contours of spots and holes in the fabric. The result tends to look as if one of Lucio Fontana's sliced canvases had been attacked by an overzealous restorer.

In "A Story About Frogs," a large hole is edged with knotted threads that look like a cluster of soap bubbles. Paint splatters, outlined with black and blue chain stitches, amplify the car-

toonish sensibility. The same materials and techniques work to less innocuous effect in a group of canvases with smaller, bullet-sized holes and large areas of bright red stitching.

Supplementing the works on canvas are three glovelike casts of Ms. Lubelski's left hand, made of thread, hair and found trimmings, and a sculpture of rolled-up paper scraps from rejection letters.

Ms. Lubelski cites as inspiration the science of recombinant DNA (synthetic molecules of genetic material taken from different sources), but it's easier to think of her art as a chromosomal abnormality: the prototypically "male" arts of paint-splashing and canvas-pierced fused to "female" fabric-staining and needlework. *KAREN ROSENBERG*