

CHOICES ART

look: shapes repeat, echo, and cross-section each other as Ritchie pursues his hermetic quasi-narrative system, which involves seven characters, seven worlds, seven lobes of the brain—and seven sets of drawings that are changed every seven days. Through 11/23.

Basilico, 26 Wooster, 966-1831.

BARBARA ROUX: Opens 11/12, through 11/30.
A.I.R., 40 Wooster, 966-0799.

RICHARD SERRA: His heaviest forged-steel sculpture ever, weighing in at a whopping 216 tons and titled *58 x 64 x 70*, is a series of six identical rectangular blocks weighing 36 tons each. Does the *Guinness Book of Records* know about this? Through 12/14. **Gagosian**, 136 Wooster, 228-2828.

❖ **DAVID SHAW:** The delusional aspect of Shaw's works is compelling. Made by hand to replicate real things, they exist in an odd limbo between concrete reality and pure apparition, questioning their own existence. Through 11/16. **Caren Golden**, 39 Wooster, 274-0080.

❖ **NANCY SPERO:** Spero's tough and gentle hand-stamped work celebrates eons of female strength in three locations at once, with her trademark mix of defiance, stasis, and discordant grace. Through 11/9, **Jack Tilton**, 49 Greene, 941-1775; through 11/10, **NY Kunsthal**, 210 E 5th, 529-5691; through 11/16, **P.P.O.W.**, 532 Bway, 941-8642.

❖ **"25TH ANNIVERSARY: 25 YOUNGER ARTISTS":** Through 11/16. **John Weber**, 142 Greene, 966-6115.

❖ **LISA YUSKAVAGE:** This series of new paintings of her candy-colored mutant femmes is collectively titled "Bad Habits." In the back room, the platform full of small white figurines Yuskavage made in the process of actualizing these imaginary figures (they're staged, sketched, photographed) is even badder. Materialized as objects, the cuties—with preposterous buttocks, boobs, noses, and pearls—become nasty self-mocking images. Through 11/16. **Boesky and Gallery**, 51 Greene, 941-9888.

JACOB LAWRENCE: Drawings from 1945 to 1996. Through 11/9. **DC Moore**, 724 Fifth, 247-2111.

EMIL NOLDE/CHRISTIAN ROHLFS: German Expressionist paintings, watercolors, and prints. Through 11/9. **Galerie St. Etienne**, 24 W 57th, 245-6734.

"PORTRAITS": A group show with work by Karen Kilimnik, Alex Katz, Alice Neel, Y.Z. Kami, Leon Golub, Gary Schneider, and others. Opens 11/7, through 12/21. **James Graham**, 1014 Madison, 535-5767.

❖ **GERHARD RICHTER:** New work by the most conceptual of painters continues to hold both reality and abstraction at bay. Richter's work insists that vision is elusive, appearance equals disappearance, and painting itself is a fiction. There's a rare self-portrait in the north gallery's back room, and the best landscapes in the south gallery's back room. Through 11/30. **Marian Goodman**, 24 W 57th, 977-7160.

❖ **LUCAS SAMARAS:** This festive retrospective of meticulous work in many media includes his prepunk pieces with razor blades, his alarmingly encrusted boxes and chairs, and walls that drip multicolored yarn. The compartmented installation turns the gallery itself into a giant Samaras box, containing an emperor's ransom of bejeweled objects, seductive surfaces, and threatening images. It may just be the most exhilarating show around. A second part, "Photo-Transformations 1973-1976," opens 11/8, through 12/14, at this gallery's Greene Street location. Through 11/23. **PaceWildensteinMacGill**, 32 E 57th, 759-7999.

PHOTO

REVIEWS BY VINCE ALETTI
UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.

❖ **Especially Recommended**

DAWOUD BEY: Large, multi-part Polaroid images of urban youth by this savvy, sensitive