

Eye Exam

Heart-Shaped Box

Michael Workman

People wandered the streets between galleries in River North this past weekend unaffected by the cold, listening as a homeless man piped a rhythmically on his harmonica for tips.....

Across town in the West Loop, the opening at Monique Meloche Gallery seemed to lose no steam despite the late hour. While there's much to recommend in this show, with its unwieldy title of "Sublime, soft-core Monkey butts and Scarlett Johansson on Skull Island," most intriguing are the images in Chicago artist Allison Ruttan's new, loosely anthropological "monkey" series. Along the wall hang a number of headshots of her subjects, some of whom live in the wild, some in captivity. Monkeys kept in captivity, the artist told me, will pick their scalps to individuate their hairstyles, while those left out in the wild have a natural growth pattern that remains largely unchanged animal to animal. Ruttan has drawn their scalp hair in with ballpoint pen to illustrate the phenomenon, showing in her drawings how wide the hairstyles of those kept in captivity actually range. No two are alike.

And last but not least is

Keiko Hara shows at Perimeter Gallery, 210 West Superior, (312)266-9473, through March 11. Beth Reitmeyer shows at ZG Gallery, 300 West Superior, (312)654-9900, through March 11. Teo Gonzalez show at Roy Boyd Gallery, 739 North Wells, (312)642-1606, through March 14. "Sublime, soft-core Monkey butts and Scarlett Johansson on Skull Island" shows at Monique Meloche Gallery, 118 North Peoria, (312)455-0299, through March 11. Noelle Allen shows at Wendy Cooper Gallery, 119 North Peoria, (312)455-1195, through March 11.

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