

Fire, ice and cinder blocks

NOW AUGUST 21-27, 1986

ADLY GAWAD/ANDREW OI, Garnet Press, 580 Richmond West, 366-5012. Until August 30.

Adly Gawad and Andrew OI (aka Owen) are currently collaborators in an exhibit of work produced individually but which they feel is complementary. Gawad creates loose, figurative paintings consisting of abstracted colour grounds given form with line drawings. OI arranges playful sculpture from industrial construction materials.

OI describes his constructions as "non-decorative structural elements used as non-structural decorative elements." OI's sculpture — made of bricks, cinder blocks, gravel, bits of glass and marble, and moulded drainage tiles — are arranged to accentuate the whimsical potential of the industrial forms, and evoke toy wooden blocks. Two pieces made of faked painted styrofoam bricks and cinder blocks form gravity defying arches. Ironically, OI's stronger pieces utilize the colouristic subtleties of the same industrial materials he claims to despise.

While OI delivers a brash diatribe on the tyranny of concrete, Gawad quietly waits for a turn to speak. "The important thing about my work," he starts, "is the interface between instinct and memory." Gawad's amorphous, expressionistic colouristic ground (instinct) are given form with fine, black line drawings which unabashedly quote from the restful sketches of **Picasso** and **Matisse**. The overall effect is of oddly tranquil, tamed volatility.

Gawad's imposition of order strains against OI's destruction, which creates an exciting degree of carefully orchestrated tension.

— DEIRDRE HANNA

perspectives ◀



Adly Gawad uses portraiture to explore the interface of instinct and memory in *One Light Second Into The Future*, a collaborative show with Andrew OI at Garnet Press.