

Stephen Maine, "Report from New York: Down East." *Art in America* (May 2006)

Art in America

MAY 2006



View of Jelena Tomasevic's exhibition "Joy of Life II," 2006; at Thrust Projects. Photo Jane Kim.

Thrust Projects was launched last October by Dallas native and NYU-trained art historian Jane Kim, following an eight-year apprenticeship at prominent Paris and New York galleries. Kim's primary interest is in Eastern European and Asian artists. Though she follows the classic model of promoting the work of a select few artists, and looked for space in Chelsea until being put off by "power-mongering," the focused, intense Kim insists that the work she shows is riskier—darker or more confrontational—than what one generally finds elsewhere. Kim plans to focus on installations.

For a recent show, the ironically titled "Joy of Life II," a reprise by the artist Jelena Tomasevic of her installation at the Serbia/Montenegro Pavilion at last summer's Venice Biennale, the windows of the gallery's third-floor space, which ordinarily overlook the Bowery, were covered over, roughly plastered and painted. The resulting claustrophobia was crucial to the installation, which featured stark, stilted drawings, in graphite with occasional touches of silver or bright yellow paint, of slick and sickly men and women engaged in activities ranging from dubiously stealthy to distinctly unhealthy. Addressing a topic hotly debated from various perspectives throughout the neighborhood, Kim echoes the assertion made by Canada's Whitney that foot traffic per se is less important than the motivated visitor who seeks out and spends time with the show.