

May 3, 2004



Joy Garnett's painting *Laylah K.* (2003).

history painting

Galleries exercise their first amendment rights.

The Republican National Convention is several months away, but the art world is already gearing up for a cultural offensive. Ranging from guerrilla-style film screenings to a makeshift legislature, these four shows should inspire riotous debate, if not action. —**Karen Rosenberg**

Majority Whip

Emerging artists transform the gallery into a “handmade Senate chamber” and a stage for meetings, lectures, and performances. They’re aided by “teenage bedroom” curator and K48 'zine founder Scott Hug, who has produced a special protest-themed issue for the occasion. Proceeds benefit the voter-registration organizations America Coming Together and SAAVY.

- **White Box**, 525 West 26th St.; 212-714-2347. 5/1-5/29.

Terrorvision

An open call for works defining “terror” yielded more than 650 proposals; the final cut includes **Joy Garnett**'s video installation featuring declassified footage of nuclear-weapons tests and Barbara Broughel's cigar box filled with miniature replicas of Soviet missiles.

- **Exit Art**, 475 Tenth Ave.; 212-966-7745. 5/1-7/31.

Tactical Action

Visitors to this multimedia festival of dissent can view all the entries for MoveOn.org's 30-second-commercial contest, browse paraphernalia from whitehouse.org parodist John Wooden, and listen to protest anthems by musicians from Phil Ochs to Thurston Moore in Don Fleming and Kim Rancourt's sound installation, inspired by the original Vietnam Songbook. Look out for the “Hit'n'Run” guerrilla-film series, courtesy of the gallery's roving audio-video bus.

- **Gigantic Artspace**, 59 Franklin St.; 212-226-6762. Through 6/10.