

LA TIMES  
Around the Galleries  
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By David Pagel

### **Injecting life into ordinary materials**

"Surrealism for Kids" could be the subtitle of "The Object," a five-artist exhibition at Carl Berg Gallery. Ordinary objects and mundane materials take on lives of their own as the L.A. sculptors gently push them in suggestive directions and then set them loose, leaving them free to do their own things in a viewer's imagination.

**Gwen Pool's** enchanting diorama gets the show off to a great start. Lovingly crafted of crocheted and knitted yarn, Jell-O molds and homemade bicycle wheels, "To Everything Turn, Turn, Turn" depicts a fantastic land of Ferris wheels, desktop fans, rolling hills and Op art patterns.

If Chris Burden collaborated with a bunch of farmland grandmothers to form an avant-garde quilting bee, Pool's piece is what they might make. Its charm does not mollify its kick or sugarcoat Pool's bittersweet vision of relentless suburban sprawl and the transformation of America into a cheesy theme park.

**Jessica Minckley's** "A Remorseful Reduction" struggles to marry the story of Little Red Riding Hood to Bruce Nauman's animal sculptures while adding a nautical theme. **Lynn Aldrich's** "Rogue" is simpler and more successful, turning a few hundred feet of green garden hoses into a playfully menacing rogue wave.

**Alison Foshee** gets a lot out of cut and pasted candy wrappers and heart-shaped paper doilies. They transform one corner of the gallery into an abstract pond packed with lily pads and lotus flowers.

**Steve DeGroodt's** two wall-works round out the show. Made of fabric, plywood and cord, these 3-D doodles evoke puffy clouds, studio scraps, tangled parachutes and written words that imploded. The mix of materials and metaphors is felicitous, just the thing to set the imagination in motion.

**Carl Berg Gallery**, 6018 Wilshire Blvd., (323) 931-6060, through March 10.  
Closed Sundays and Mondays. [www.carlberggallery.com](http://www.carlberggallery.com).