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# The New York Times

ART REVIEW

## LineAge

By Ken Johnson

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*Selections Fall 2005*

*The Drawing Center*

*35 Wooster Street, SoHo*

Through Oct.



Untitled (4 Layers), 2007, Graphite on paper,  
hand cut and layered, 11 x 7 in (28 x 18 cm)

As usual with the Drawing Center's twice-a-year exhibitions for emerging artists, this one stretches drawing almost beyond recognition. It includes traditional works like finely rendered, close views of woven fabric by Stefanie Victor and smooth, much enlarged drawings of human navels by Susan D'Amato. But a large cocoonlike structure by Monika Grzymala made of four miles of paper tape wrapped around three columns in the gallery could be taken by an innocent viewer for sculpture.

The nominal unifying theme is line, drawing's most fundamental element, but the broader imperative that gives the show its entertaining appeal is the pursuit of novelty. This can be formal or technical, as in the works of **Adam Fowler**, who made his medium-large drawings by carefully cutting out the unmarked spaces between myriad penciled arcs to create lacy, seemingly layered works of remarkable delicacy.

Judy Stevens's colorful irregularly shaped wall hangings made of crocheted yarn and Franklin Evans's semi-abstract, neo-hippie mural don't look unfamiliar, but the aspiration to formal and stylistic novelty is palpable in their works, as well. So too for Molly Larkey's enlarged graphite copies of handwritten letters exchanged between

herself and her father, though the epistolary contents add an emotional charge missing from the rest of the exhibition.

Conceptual novelty is also in play. David Tallitsch's installation of a table bearing blocks of colored clay and chalk, with drawing exercises and art postcards pinned to the wall, slyly meditates on conventionalism in art. And an installation of officially notarized documents with zany poetic, typewritten texts -- supposedly the results of a collaboration between two artists, Cariana and Carianne, who inhabit the same body -- puts a novel spin on ideas about identity and authorship.