

The New York Times

ART IN REVIEW; 'Kill All Lies'

By **Roberta Smith**

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Luhring Augustine

531 West 24th Street, Chelsea

Through July 30

This motley group show, which has been organized by Michele Maccarone, the gallery's director, takes its title from the infamous phrase that Tony Shafrazi (then an artist, now an art dealer) attempted to spray-paint in 1971 on the surface of Picasso's "Guernica," which was then installed at the Museum of Modern Art. (It is now at the Reina Sofia in Madrid.) What he actually ended up writing was "Lies Kill All."

Setting the record straight, Ms. Maccarone has brought together work that shares a subversive rawness of language, beginning with Mark Gonzales's slurry slang statements, spray-painted onto mirrors that simply lean against the wall, and Dara Birnbaum's sound piece, "Operations, Dec. 16, 17, 18," based upon live broadcasts of the United States bombing of Iraq last year. Mr. Gonzales's works tend to be shown up by Christopher Wool's early word paintings, in absentia, and also by the inclusion of Henry Flynt's extraordinary color photographs of the pungent graffiti poetry painted onto buildings in lower Manhattan in the late 1970's by Samo, a young denizen of the streets later known by his given name, Jean-Michel Basquiat.

Meanwhile, a second piece by Ms. Birnbaum bombards the viewer with repeating cross-cut clips and glitches of the mugging participants of "Hollywood Squares." And Steve DiBenedetto shows some of his best paintings in years, small dense abstractions whose minutely fragmented colors qualify as visual static under the circumstances. In the midst of the show's clamor, Olivier Mosset clears the airwaves with a large pale green monochrome painting -- pure, silent and still. ROBERTA SMITH