

There's power amid the clutter

For his debut solo exhibition, Sacramento-based Conceptual artist **Richard Haley** has crammed too much work into a small space. The room at first seems filled with debris.

In a sense, though, the clutter at the gallery Another Year in L.A. is appropriate. For this spiritually minded (if uneven) work, the body is but a husk — less germane in itself than in the imprint it leaves on the world.

The point is made through the prevalence of prints and printing devices — inkjet for the former and an assortment of stamps, pads, props, rollers and mechanical attachments for the latter. These printing devices leave transient marks in the earth, from replicas of the artist's knees to texts written in mustard, blood or plaster. Most are banal.

The compelling works are two animated videos, each composed from still photographs. Lines of text, one molded in marshmallow and one in polyurethane, describe the animated action. In one the artist repeatedly sits in a folding chair, attempting to emulate "Soul on Ice" author Eldridge Cleaver. In the other he blows an invisible stripe of air across a studio floor.

As animations, these two performances by the artist never actually took place. Whether a social revolution in political thought, like Cleaver's, or the simple act of breathing, these works neatly locate authentic power in a metaphysical space.

Another Year in L.A., 2121 N. San Fernando Road, (323) 223-4000. Runs through next Friday. Closed Saturday.
www.anotheryearinLA.com