

Art

Best in Show

Recommendations by R.C. Baker

Robert McCurdy

A vaguely organic figure rests on a pitch-black ground; on other walls, a ghostly galleon and a small passenger plane materialize from enveloping gloom. McCurdy sets found toys against black backgrounds and uses long exposure times and monochrome film to gather in their dim contours, capturing the sensation of one's eyes slowly discerning shapes within darkness. The photograph of the strange figure that opens the show is an exception, filling its entire frame. The mysterious organic shape turns out to be an astronaut doll, and this indistinct figure personalizes the sense of vulnerability found in the more distant vistas of lost ships and planes. *Venetia Kapernekas, 526 W 26th, 212-462-4150. Through February 10.*



Robert McCurdy/Venetia Kapernekas Gallery