

Art Walk

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A Critical Guide to the GALLERIES

By William Wilson

Raul Guerrero's offbeat photography, sculpture, video and writings have about the right degree of obscurity to establish him as a cult figure. He puts us in mind of Wallace Berman, but Guerrero's is a gentler art, without social conscience.

A mixed bag of work, in two consecutive shows, is laced with humor, nostalgia and mysticism. Such diversity is confusing, but Guerrero's visionary sense and primitive methods look promising.

The first show, through Saturday, features well-composed geometric photograms and an electric kaleidoscope that turns crystals into colorless organic patterns. A draped body casting of the artist, floating horizontally, maintains a ghostly vigil in the back room.

The second show, beginning Tuesday, includes evocative photographs of beachside activity taken with a camera obscura. Additional drawings were not seen by your reviewer. Guerrero's videotapes will be aired March 25. A meandering collection of his writings is available. (Thomas Lewallen Gallery, 2919 Santa Monica Blvd., to April 1.)

-S.M.