reviews: new york

'Reflection'

Nathan A. Bernstein & Co.

This intriguing show offered a wide range of takes on how reflective surfaces can draw us in. Metallic paint, silver leaf, mirrors, and crystals threw light back at viewers—sometimes with near-blinding intensity, other times with a muted glow.

The range of artists was impressive. In one room, a 1977 Andy Warhol screenprint portrait of Georgia O'Keeffe cast its jaded gaze from beneath a sprinkling of diamond dust. Warhol himself was appropriated in Douglas Gordon's *1 piece multi Marilyn* (2008), which burns away part of Warhol's image of Monroe and places the portrait over a mirror, so viewers can see their own faces completing Marilyn's.

Marc Swanson won for sheer dazzle with his *Untitled (Sitting Buck)*, 2009, a polyurethane-foam sculpture of a deer wearing a glamorous, scintillating coat of armor. For a companion piece, *Untitled (Crystal Antler Pair)*, 2009, he covered a rendering of intertwining antlers with crystals to evoke an outsize Surrealist brooch.

Many other works, by contrast, focused on the warmth of tone that metallic paints and surfaces impart. For her 2010 series of untitled pieces, Nancy Lorenz poured melted gold over blocks of poplar wood. Thanks to the medium's subtle radiance, the feeling of the heat required to melt the gold was palpable here. There was also interesting work from Shinique Smith, whose *Little Glutton* (2007) coats a bale of clothing in metallic paint, and Anne Peabody, whose glass-and-silver-leaf *New York City Landscape* (2003), *Courtney's Room,* and *Mimi* (both 2005) call to mind daguerreotypes. Perhaps most mysterious was Lynda Benglis's wall hanging *Tempest (Juliet)*, 1990, made of stainless-steel mesh and aluminum. Its series of coils seems to be curling away from us, while its shining surface pulls us in—all in the spirit of this well-thought-out exhibition.

—*Steve Barnes*

Marc Swanson, *Untitled (Sitting Buck)*, 2009, polyurethane foam, crystals, and adhesive, 34" x 40" x 50". Nathan A. Bernstein & Co.