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Galleries

By ANDREW RUSSETH



Installation view of "Gedi Sibony: The Carver's Order." Credit...Gedi Sibony, via Greene Naftali, New York; Photo by Júlia Standovár

Gedi Sibony

Through Nov. 21. The Renee and Chaim Gross Foundation, 526 LaGuardia Place; 212-529-4906, rcgrossfoundation.org.

The capacious townhouse that the artist Chaim Gross (1902-91) and his wife, Renee (1909-2005), shared for decades is a New York treasure, stuffed with his work and their sprawling art collection.

Somehow, the midcareer Brooklyn artist Gedi Sibony still managed to find room for almost 20 of his scrappy pieces to make this invigorating scavenger hunt of an exhibition.

Most of Sibony's contributions are makeshift objects that, on the street, would be mistaken for intriguing junk, but in these environs, they glow. A metal shower rack, bent and twisted, turns anthropomorphic next to sturdy bronze heads by Chaim Gross. An awkward plywood table by Sibony serves as a humble pedestal for two more strong Gross heads, these carved from wood. A small wood bat, hung from the ceiling, lends an antic touch.

Time is one of Sibony's principal themes here. He has placed a battered office chair in the elevator, and up on the third floor, a giant white Swatch watch atop a doorway. The artist has also brought in a tiny terra cotta figurine from around 2500 B.C. and floated it over a table with nearly invisible wires — an ancient visitor surrounded by more recent history.

By arraying his understated pieces throughout the building, Sibony punctuates and intensifies the menagerie of art on view. Lovingly, he is playing a supporting role in a far larger tale about how creative lives can be sustained and remembered.

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