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ART IN REVIEW

Andy Coolquitt: We Care About You

By KAREN ROSENBERG

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In his exuberant second solo show on the Lower East Side, Andy Coolquitt reconciles Minimalism's control-freak tendencies with an appreciation of awkwardness and imperfection. Using broom handles, plastic straws and other found objects, sometimes wired to light bulbs, he turns out serial objects with a D.I.Y. twist.

Several staffs made from pipe segments recall the multicolored wooden "Barres" of Andre Cadere, until you see the rust and solder. Other works made with striped fabric are closer in spirit to Blinky Palermo, or maybe Jim Lambie.

As in Mr. Lambie's work, color redeems a couple of constructions that aren't otherwise all that complex — in particular, two towers of stacked cigarette lighters. One consists of translucent yellow and orange lighters laid end to end and looks like a tube of neon. The other, opaque blue lighters glued side by side to a strip of clear acrylic, evokes ancient Egyptian inlays of turquoise and lapis lazuli.

Mr. Coolquitt's sculptures derive some of their power from a hectic, aggressive installation. Most of the bars and rods lean against the wall, but some protrude from it or form a kind of barrier. Several pieces double as floor lamps or overhead lighting fixtures.

Another work, a square-shape wall relief upholstered in a soft pale-blue fabric, has a purely social function: it's titled "A nice soft place for meeting people." Think of it as Minimalism's warm and fuzzy side. **KAREN ROSENBERG**