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p. C27.

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## **Eleanor Antin**

### **'Minetta Lane: A Ghost Story'**

*Ronald Feldman Fine Arts*  
31 Mercer Street (near Canal  
Street)  
SoHo  
Through Feb. 18

Eleanor Antin has often used fictive identities to explore the roles available to women in European and American cultures. Her nostalgia for lost times and places comes to the fore in this extremely elaborate installation. Following a path of planks through what seems to be a demolition site, you find yourself on a rooftop in Greenwich Village, circa 1950. From here you can see into windows and skylights where three ghost stories are unfolding on film.

The ghost (a schoolgirl in a frock) first haunts a painter, imitating her dancelike movements and taking advantage of her momentary absence to scrawl a big black X across her picture. She then moves on to an interracial couple frolicking naked in a bathtub, provoking a fight between them. Finally, she visits an elderly man, snuffing out the candles in his crystal chandelier and possibly also his life.

In another room of the gallery, twin monitors replay a few seconds of documentary film showing the demolition of an old tenement, its exposed walls and girders trembling at the impact of the wrecking ball and then collapsing in a cloud of dust. This simple, black-and-white tape ends up being more dramatic (and beautiful) than the elaborate narratives Ms. Antin has staged on her Disneyland set.

PEPE KARMEL