

NEW YORK PULSE

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DE TO LIVING AND ENTERTAINMENT

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Arts

Furbies 400: a hit list

By JAMES GARDNER

KELLY Heaton is probably not the first adult who wanted to kill a Furby, that chattering, hirsute, robotic little monster that every American child simply had to have two Christmases ago.

But she has certainly gone after it with gusto.

Fully 400 Furbies were taken apart so that Heaton could create "Reflection Loop," recently unveiled at the high-tech bitforms gallery.

Embedded in its surface are what look like hundreds of rounded models of H₂O molecules, connected by dots that contain sensors. When the viewer approaches, these orbs open to form those patented, long-lashed eyes and a mouth which, even in this disembodied state, cries out "Furby!"

Heaton, who developed the work while studying at

ART REVIEW

REFLECTION LOOP

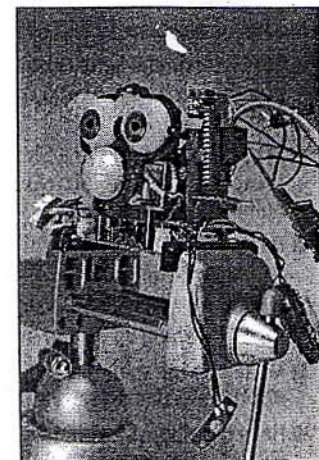
At bitforms gallery, 529 W. 20th St., through Feb. 16. (212) 366-6939.

MIT's Media Laboratory, is fascinated by technology's power to simulate life.

"When I look at Reflection Pool," she says, referring to a component of the exhibit, "the art actually looks back at me."

Whether or not this work, as Heaton claims, "changes the power structure" by responding to the viewer is debatable.

What can't be denied is that it's a testament, if nothing else, to one human being's drive and ingenuity.



"Reflection Loop."