

STEFAN KÜRTEEN, "Perfect Day," Alexander and Bonin, 132 10 Avenue, at 18th Street, (212) 367-7474 (through May 25). In his odd, engaging paintings this German painter spins fantasies of suburban bliss. He translates photographs of houses engulfed by greenery, sumptuous backyard gardens and low, modern school buildings into assiduously detailed, linear cartoons filled paint-by-numbers style in muted hues. Gold skies and underpainting impart a nostalgic, religious feeling that verges at its best on an enchanted transcendentalism (Johnson).

\* GILES LYON AND TONY TASSET, Feigen Contemporary, 535 West 20th Street, (212) 929-0500 (through May 25). Their styles are different, but these two artists share an infectiously trippy sense of humor. Indeed, Mr. Tasset's single work, a realistically painted, three-dimensional bloodshot eyeball the size of a weather balloon, looks as if it were made for viewing Mr. Lyon's cheerfully gaudy, densely layered and detailed cartoon-style abstract paintings (Johnson).

ELIZABETH McINTOSH, Clementine, 526 West 26th Street, (212) 243-5937 (through May 18). A lot of abstract painters just want to have fun. Ms. McIntosh, who lives in Toronto and is having her first New York solo, succeeds delightfully in that endeavor, creating fields of brightly colored ovals, circles and targets that jostle together and push and pull the picture plane to lightly comic and cosmic effect (Johnson).

JEAN-FRANÇOIS MORICEAU AND PETRA MRZYK, Marcus Ritter, 453 West 17th Street, (212) 463-7375 (through May 20). This endearing debut of two artists from Nantes, France, who have collaborated since 1998, exudes a passion for drawing on sparkling white grounds, walls included. Most impressive are two short video animations in which flowing lines mutate ceaselessly from one image to another, accompanied by catchy music. They make nostalgia seem fresh and are made the old-fashioned way -- drawn one cell at a time. The artists are also responsible for some great-looking zines (Smith).

ARLENE SHECHET, Elizabeth Harris, 529 West 20th Street, (212) 463-9666 (through May 24). Inspired by Buddhism, Ms. Shechet embodies metaphors of flux, growth and enlightenment in a variety of forms and materials. There are big, funky rubber flowers in neon colors, casts of turbulent water in blue rubber, small bronze sculptures suggestive of Indian deities and a set of elegant, stupa-shaped ceramic vessels (Johnson).

SUE WILLIAMS, 303 Gallery, 525 West 22nd Street, (212) 255-1121 (through May 18). From her networks of meandering black lines that make explicit references to penises, orifices, brutal sex play and unspeakable acts, Ms. Williams has turned to a new de Kooning-esque concept: fat, ribbony sweeps and snarls in bright colors, often dripping with paint, which curl and caper with acrobatic abandon on stark white grounds. Abstract and uninflected,