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CURRENTS

SHOWS

Moving Into Appliances

David Trautrimas, a 30-year-old Canadian artist, takes apart old kitchen mixers, hole punchers, waffle irons, staplers, vacuum cleaners, coffee machines and other household objects; photographs the pieces; and then "re-assembles" them digitally, into what he calls "Habitat Machines." With their industrial steampunk aesthetic and looming, animated postures, his machines would fit nicely into the sets of Terry Gilliam's clanking dystopia "Brazil." Or perhaps post-crash Dubai.

Mr. Trautrimas became interested in the idea of creating fanciful dwellings unfettered by zoning ordinances or the laws of physics, he said, after noting the blandness of most residential development. "What Frank Gehry and Zaha Hadid are doing on a commercial scale would be so cool if it was happening residentially," he said.

He also enjoys spoofing the marketing come-ons of new condo developments, which typically — or "at least here in Canada," he said — depict an idealized version of the new building set in a rolling meadow. "You know it's in downtown Toronto," he said, "and not in any wilderness."

Two of Mr. Trautrimas's digital "Habitat Machines" are included in "Visual Morphology," a show opening Thursday at the Klompching Gallery in Brooklyn. ("Sprinkler House," right, is 15 by 16 1/2 inches and sells for \$450 unframed and \$700 framed.) And in July, all 12 "Habitat Machines" will be at the Photo-Eye Gallery in Santa Fe, N.M., (800) 227-6941, photoeye.com.

"Visual Morphology" runs through April 24 at 111 Front Street (Adams Street), Dumbo, Brooklyn; (212) 796-2070, klompching.com.

PENELOPE GREEN



DAVID TRAUTRIMAS