

sara meltzer gallery

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JASON MIDDLEBROOK

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Trash To Treasure: Jason Middlebrook's "Vein"

Posted By [Michelle Kung](#) On October 10, 2008 @ 12:48 pm In [WSJ Today Magazine](#)



Green issues may be getting short shrift in the ongoing U.S. presidential campaign, but they are at the forefront of New York artist Jason Middlebrook's sixth solo exhibition at the [1] [Sara Meltzer Gallery](#) in Manhattan. Entitled "Vein," the show, which opens tomorrow, features a mix of sculpture, painting (such as "Getting Off the Grid Is Hard To Do," pictured above) and works on paper, all dedicated to the themes of ecology, entropy and the increasingly precarious relationship between humans and nature. A long-time practitioner of using specific materials to draw attention to larger social issues, Mr. Middlebrook focused on reusable materials for "Vein," stacking multi-colored concrete casts of recycled plastic containers into layers of "geological stata" and painting his exhibition's titular "veins" onto strips of wood that lean along the walls of the gallery, emphasizing the natural origin of each plank. A piece of driftwood collected from an Hawaiian beach comprises the bulk of "Wood from All over the World Mobile," a Alexander Calder-inspired piece that epitomizes the idea of deriving eco-art from found objects. —*Michelle Kung*

Jason Middlebrook: Vein
October 11 to November 8
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