

ARTFORUM

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Haptic temptations Little irritates me more than the sight of people touching art, but several memorable solo shows in Los Angeles galleries this past year almost turned me into a hypocrite/ic. Shana Lutker's sculptures in wood, steel, rope, and leather (at Susanne Vielmetter Los Angeles Projects) simultaneously evoked letterforms, body parts, and instruments of torture. Rachel Foulon (at Ltd Los Angeles) called forth an agrarian history with structures of stained western red cedar and canvas colored with dye and Hawaiian sea salt. Emilie Halpern (at Pepin Moore) fluently incorporated ancient meteorites, a love-bird feather, and magician's flash paper. And Marie Jager (at François Ghebaly Gallery/Kunsthalle LA) summoned the elements by "painting" canvases with pollution and blasts of vehicular exhaust and treating blueprints of the city to the effects of sunlight and rain.