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KATRIN SIGURDARDOTTIR

Eleven Rivington
11 Rivington Street,
Lower East Side
Through July 3
Greenberg Van Doren
730 Fifth Avenue, at 57th Street
Through Aug. 21

In the past decade or so Iceland's art scene flourished along with its economy. Now that the bubble has burst, the country's young artists are in a sorting-out phase. (See Ragnar Kjartansson, at the Icelandic Pavilion of the Venice Biennial.)

One of those artists, Katrin Sigurdardottir, is having her first solo New York gallery show. It takes place at two locations, with small sculptures uptown and a new installation on the Lower East Side. Taken together they suggest that the whimsical elements of her art have given way to a brooding seriousness.

In the smaller and mostly older sculptures at Greenberg Van Doren, Ms. Sigurdardottir displays models of the Icelandic landscape in shipping crates and open-storage units. These works reflect loss, homesickness and the nomadic life of the contemporary artist, and perhaps a bit of cynicism about Iceland's natural resources. They are conceptually transparent and visually too cute. Ms. Sigurdardottir's installation downtown at Eleven Rivington feels more transitional. Architecture, not nature, is the focus, and the Alice in Wonderland quality of her earlier work has been replaced by a sense of foreboding. The room-size piece employs infinity mirrors and an arched gateway inspired by royal palace architecture, creating an atmosphere of isolation and compartmentalization. It makes you wonder what's next, for Ms. Sigurdardottir and for Iceland.

KAREN ROSENBERG



Katrin Sigurdardottir's
"Haul XX," made of resin
and pigments