

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

ART REVIEWS/Helen A. Harrison

Making the Ordinary Extraordinary

'Extraordinary'

DM Contemporary, 148 Roger Canoe Hollow Road, Mill Neck; (516) 922-3552. Through June 3.

The gallery, in a private home overlooking Mill Neck Bay, is open by appointment only and is not easy to find. But that should not deter anyone interested in contemporary art — specifically, as the show's title indicates, work in which the ordinary becomes extraordinary.

The common safety pin is Tamiko Kawata's medium, or rather the building block of her free-standing sculptures and wall reliefs. She seems to have found numberless ways to reconfigure safety pins, in organic curves and geometric grids, simply by pinning them together. The process is fascinating, and regardless of what they are made of or how they are assembled, the end products are also inherently appealing. "Twelve Arms" suggests a plump starfish, "Crevice" has anatomical overtones, and the variations on the "Pueblo" theme have a strong architectural character.

Sally Shore uses grosgrain ribbon to weave intricate geometric compositions that recall Op Art canvases by Vasarely. As with Ms. Kawata's safety pins, the ribbon has a unique character that defines the works' texture and structure, but the fact that they are made of a common craft material rather than paint in no way detracts from their formal excellence. The rich blues and reds of Ms. Shore's three-part "Winter Village, Dusk" and the subtly modulated transition from dense to open forms in "Dislocations" show how adept she is at both color and structure.

Eung Ho Park reclaims old serrated-edge bottle caps for his clever "I'm Looking at You" reliefs. Nailed to panels and painted with iris motifs (think eye, not flower), they could be Big Brother's low-tech surveillance modules or maybe a taste of what the iris-scan storage system for Homeland Security may look like. But his panels covered in twisted stainless steel flatware are by no means ambiguous. Their title, "Sperm Spoons," says it all.

"Dislocations," woven ribbons by Sally Shore, right.

