

# Time Out New York

February 25 - March 3, 2010

## “Leopards in the Temple”

★★★★★

**SculptureCenter**, through Mar 30  
(see Elsewhere)

Latifa Echakhch's installation, *Erratum*, a line of broken Moroccan tea glasses arrayed on the floor against a wall, is a good indication of what you'll find at “Leopards in the Temple.” The exhibition is a mixed bag of handsome pieces, the most interesting of which employ conceptual frameworks that hinge on state change or a broaching of formality.

The labyrinthine lower level is used to exceptional effect, with a series of slide projections, films and videos nested in its cavelike enclaves. The sense of a snug, private viewing

area enhances the intimacy of three pieces in particular, which seem to be whispering secrets about the hidden life of objects.

Nina Hoffmann's *Motiv*—a series of black-and-white slides depicting grainy close-up shots of almost-touching arms, drawn from her own images of social gatherings—focuses on the deeply personal coding present in casual moments. Kathrin Sonntag's brief video *Tango*, also black and white, is a quick, dreamy loop of a pair of hands whisking a checkered tablecloth from beneath a sparsely set table. João Maria Gusmão and Pedro Paiva's three short silent films, each set in a windswept landscape, include a reenactment of snake charming with a piece of rope, and a humorous segment on the power of pendulums.

The upstairs installation of often-monumentally scaled, mostly abstract sculptures and paintings, while well suited to the physical space, seems a bit lacking in emotional subtlety next to the nuanced offerings downstairs. In any case, it's nice to see, for once, more women than men in a group show.—*T.J. Carlin*



Installation view