



and assemblage, often threaded through loose narratives. Take *Masculine/Feminine*, 1975–76, a serial arrangement of pink and blue sheets of typing paper on which a fractured screenplay is interwoven with found photographs and objects. The work unavoidably alludes to Godard's 1966 film of a similar name and theme, gender roles being the frequent subject of Smith's cheeky scripting. For example: "ROBERT (off): Have you noticed, in the word 'masculine' there is 'mask' and there's 'ass.'"

8

SCOTT BENZEL (*Human Resources at Cottage Home, Los Angeles*) Riddled with double takes (crack pipes posing as vases holding decorative roses), knockoffs (counterfeit Nike high-tops based on those worn by the ill-fated Heaven's Gate cult), and near misses (a video of the Beach Boys performing a song written by Charles Manson), Benzel's poker-faced, *Wunderkammer*-ish show was the bad trip I couldn't take often enough this summer.

9

JUDY FISKIN (*Angles Gallery, Los Angeles*) Since 1998, Fiskin has used film and video in unfussy ways in order to level some intractable hierarchies, particularly those of the art world. See, for example, her hilar-

lated artworks, to slyly comic effect.

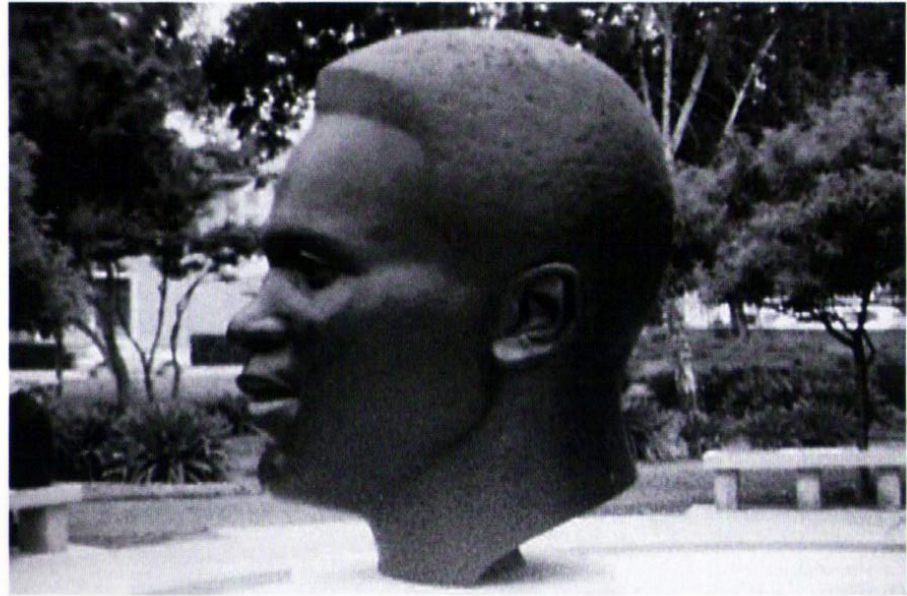
10

HENNESSY YOUNGMAN, ART THOUGHTZ

Speaking of hierarchies, nobody "enwisen-ened" us to the mechanics of the art world more deftly than Youngman, aka the Pharaoh Hennessy, a world-weary artist-cum-theorist with a talent for pointed malapropisms who has guided his YouTube viewers and Tumblr followers through the intricacies of relational aesthetics, institutional critique, and the sublime with remarkable efficiency. His take on the female gaze—hilariously hijacked by Tamara Suber, who delivers an acute analysis of *Olympia* and of various male members—is a critical one-uppance of the highest order. □

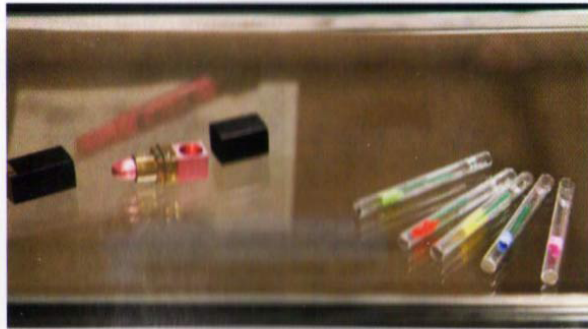


6. William Leavitt, *California Patio*, 1972, artificial plants, Malibu lights, flagstone, slider, curtains, wooden wall, text. Installation view, Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, 2011. Photo: Brian Forrest.



9. Above: Judy Fiskin, *Guided Tour*, 2010, still from a black-and-white video, 11 minutes 29 seconds.

8. Below: View of "Scott Benzel: *Maldistribution*," 2011, Human Resources at Cottage Home, Los Angeles. From left: *Lipstick Pipe*, 2011; *"Love Roses" Pipe*, 2011. Photo: Jennie Warren.



10. Hennessy Youngman and Tamara Suber in the "Female Gaze" episode of Youngman's Internet series *Art Thoughtz*, 2011.