

Critic's picks - Art

Michele Natale on the best in art

Michele Natale, Correspondent

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Branch Gallery hosts Lump Gallery founder Bill Thelan with “minor character,” the gallery’s first one-person show. Thelan, an MFA graduate of UNC-Chapel Hill, provides a tasty sampler of his work as he bends multiple genres to his purposes -- here, to honor marginalized places and people. Thelan provides a site-specific painting installation referring to the Heaven’s Gate cult, as well as minimal and op art, a pair of obsessive, time-consuming dot-patterned drawings; a quilt honoring Roy Garrett Samber, made in collaboration with his sister; a voyeuristic video made from the imagined viewpoint of a shut-in; and a scale model of Biscuit King, a Durham building slated for demolition, replete with boarded-up windows and graffiti, made in collaboration with artist Jerstin Crosby. Thelan’s wry, sometimes oblique takes on contemporary culture reveal his ever-active mind constantly reworking art history in the service of his unique aesthetic. 401-C Foster St., Durham 918-1116, www.branchgallery.com.