

ARTFORUM

By Michael Wilson

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PREVIEWS



BOSTON

Charles LeDray:
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INSTITUTE OF CONTEMPORARY ART

July 16–October 17

Curated by Randi Hopkins

New York-based Charles LeDray is a self-taught artist whose practice defies the category's savant stereotype. Yes, he uses traditional craft techniques to produce work of visionary intensity. True, he commands an idiosyncratic oeuvre that includes microscaled clothing and furniture. And, admittedly, he has made objects incorporating hand-carved human bone, tapping into tropes of primitivism and outsider art. But as this show, which gathers fifty-odd sculptures and installations from the past twenty-five years, demonstrates, LeDray also possesses a sophisticated understanding of the contemporary scene. A master embroiderer and potter with a talent for fine and affecting detail, he turns age-old methods to deathless ends, probing the intersection of individual and collective imagination. *Travels to the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, Nov. 18, 2010–Feb. 13, 2011.*

—Michael Wilson