

# PATRICIA SWEETOW GALLERY

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### GALLERIES

By Cate McQuaid, Globe Correspondent

#### Duct tape and glitter

There's hot-shot technique with even more dubious content on view at the Rhys Gallery. Mona Superhero makes her images entirely out of colored duct tape. It's quite a feat. She builds hyped-up portraits of women in her native Portland, Ore. They're rocker chicks and artists, and Superhero poses them in predictable tough-girl stances, sultry and pouty and defiant.

If the pictures look as if they come out of a corny photo shoot in "America's Next Top Model," the craftsmanship is brilliant. The artist adds shadow and volume with darker layers of tape below the surface; she builds intricate, psychedelic patterns from tiny bits of tape, and each picture seems more detailed and dense than the one before. Look at "Best of Class," depicting an equestrian and her neon-pink horse. A pattern of tattoos shows through her shirt.

Also at the Rhys, **Jamie Vasta** builds landscapes entirely out of glitter. And unlike Superhero, Vasta actually has something interesting to say about her subject matter. The earlier works here, with raging fires in the distance, are obvious: "I've got glitter, I'll make something bright!" But her empty strip-mall parking lot beneath haloed streetlights, delineated in glitter and rhinestones, adds gaudy pizzazz to the most mundane of scenes and shows off the precision with which she applies her sparkling colors.