

Art in Review

The Way of Chopsticks

Song Dong and Yin Xiuzhen

Chambers Fine Art

210 11th Avenue, at 24th Street

Through next Friday

A giant pair of chopsticks has again invaded Chambers Fine Art. More than 25 feet long, it surpasses by 10 feet the monster pair seen there in 2002. Both pairs are the work of Song Dong and Yin Xiuzhen, a married team who made the first pair and other works in their 2002 show to celebrate their 10th anniversary and the merging of their separate artistic careers. The show was devoted to personal concerns, like, as they have said, "eating, drinking, playing and happiness."

Each of the two new chopsticks was made by one of the artists without consulting the other — all that was agreed on was the size. To their surprise, we are told, each turned out to have the same theme: the well-planned central axis of Beijing, their hometown.

Mr. Song made his chopstick of metal, hammering out two versions of the axis from old and current maps of the city. Ms. Yin's chopstick, made of sown-together stockings stuffed with foam, have important edifices on the axis ranged along the top. These chopsticks and the rest of the show are now said to go beyond the personal, celebrating Beijing as their living environment.

The rest of the show is a mishmash of non sequiturs, like the monkish wooden bed Mr. Song used before his marriage, now split in two, one part symbolizing his growing-up process and the other Ms. Yin's joining the Song family; a DVD showing the right hand of each artist; Mr. Song's shaking a mini Statue of Liberty in his fist before the skyline of Lower Manhattan; Ms. Yin's tracing lines on a sidewalk with chalk that an ant is balky about crossing. And such. Lao Tzu would love it.

GRACE GLUECK