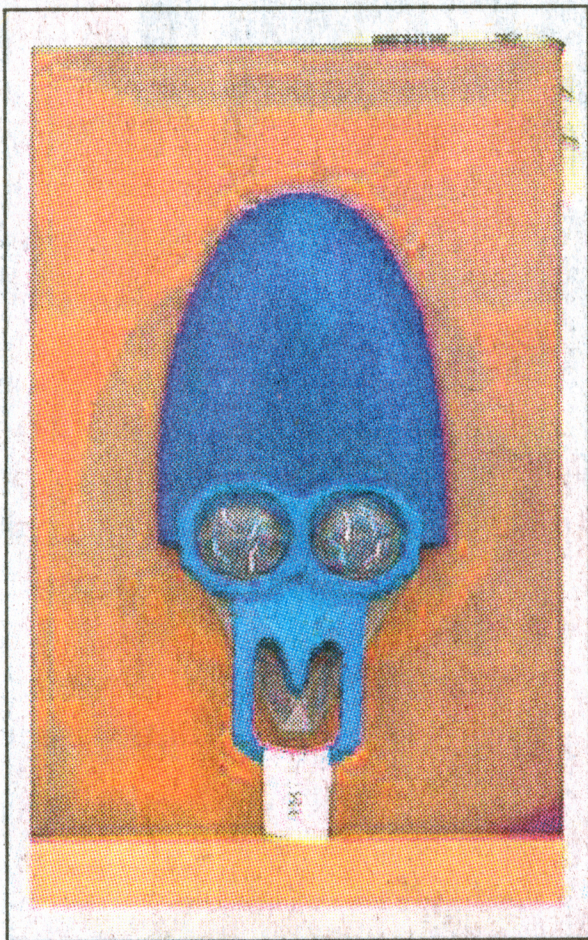


Organized by artist Matteo Tannatt, the show consists of six videos that play simultaneously in a darkened gallery, plus a dramatically lighted sculptural installation in "the pit," the deep, coffin-shaped, concrete-lined hole in the gallery floor, where mechanics once stood to repair cars overhead.

Like a host with an agenda that might not be in your best interests, Tannatt's untitled piece sets the stage for the other works to converse with one another. Even better, it gets visitors involved. Composed of a Halloween costume, bungee cords, metal grating, a dysfunctional television and green and yellow spotlights, Tannatt's cartoony crime scene melds playfulness and paranoia. Perception is sharpened.

The videos invite — and require — different types of attentiveness.

Kenneth Tam's "Sump" gets under your skin, eliciting a queasy, too-close-for-comport sort of voyeuristic intimacy. Jibade-Khalil Huffman's "Working Title"



Pit II

THE SCULPTURE
"Moons of Fortuna I" by Erik Frydenborg is one of four at the Pit II.

Goofy alien art makes contact

Next door to the Pit in Glendale is the Pit II, a pocket-sized gallery into which Erik Frydenborg has packed four sculptural reliefs. One hangs on each of three walls, and one stands on the floor, blocking your entrance. The setup, titled "An Erik Frydenborg Omnibus," would be aggressive if its works weren't so goofy.

Imagine what might happen if a local exterminator, whose favorite movie is "Minions," were commissioned to build a set of polychrome urethane grave-stones for aliens whose love of sci-fi paperbacks from the 1950s was matched by their obsession with Cold War spy stories from the '60s.

Such far-flung associations race to mind in the presence of Frydenborg's nutty sculptures, which are so beautifully crafted that you can't help but like them. Mixing metaphors like nobody's business, Frydenborg specializes in non sequiturs.

In an age of instant take-aways and cut-to-the-chase summations, his obdurate works make a virtue of incomprehension. By keeping meaning at bay — and visitors on our toes — "An Erik Frydenborg Omnibus" wreaks havoc with logic so that the imagination might spring into action, strut its stuff and leave us with the knowledge that there's more to art — and life — than meets the eye.

The Pit II, 918 Ruberta Ave., Glendale, (916) 849-2126, through Jan. 31. Open Saturdays and Sundays. www.the-pit.la

calendar@latimes.com