

# EAST BAY express

April 26, 2006

## ON THE WALL

### Cheap Wine, Free Cheese

Our critics review local visual arts exhibitions.

*By David Downs*

**New Works** – Oakland's Pro Arts Gallery gets a new neighbor this month in the form of the Swarm Gallery, presenting professional yet innovative local stuff in its first show, "New Works." Michael McDermott's thrilling oil-on-canvas "Blast" series embodies violence and spectacle, while his tinted urethane sculptures riot with the color and chaos of a picked booger. Berkeley MFA grad student John Herschend deliberately underwhelms with his intriguing trademark still lifes. He uses oil and galkyd on panel to depict mundane life that's falling apart at the brush stroke. Ryan Reynolds remixes the famed Bay Bridge box truss, cargo container, and freeway overpass shapes to capture the de facto abstract art among us. (Through April 28 at 560 2nd St., Oakland; SwarmStudios.net or 510-839-2787.)