

EAST BAY express

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ON THE WALL

Cheap Wine, Free Cheese

Our critics review local visual arts exhibitions.

By David Downs

RE:FORM — Works by Gregg Fleishman — Remember those prefabricated wooden dinosaur models that came precut in a sheet of aircraft wood that you could make into triceratopses and T. rexes? Remember how you could pop out individual vertebrae and slot them into the ready-made hole on the spine? Architectural genius and obsessive Gregg Fleishman elevates the concept to the level of cutting-edge design in this awesomely contemporary show at the Swarm Gallery in Jack London Square. He covers most of the huge front showspace with the footprint of his prefabricated, 150-square-foot hut, which comes in 38 wooden pieces and takes four people five hours to erect. Computer-controlled saws using directions from an AutoCAD diagram precisely delineate the basic geometric forms, which Fleishman notches for doors, stairs, and windows. Several models of the work stand nearby and precut wooden chairs going for up to \$1,800 apiece dot the room. Modern materials and fabrication techniques are turning even what could be cheap architecture into a designer's dream. Fleishman is only hinting at some of the possibilities. (Through June 18 at 560 2nd St., Oakland; SwarmStudios.net or 510-839-2787.)