

ARTFORUM

BEST OF 2008

The Artists' Artists



Jonah Freeman, Justin Lowe, and Alexandre Singh, *Hello Meth Lab in the Sun*, 2008. Installation view, Ballroom Marfa, Marfa, TX.

ADAM HELMS

Jonah Freeman, Justin Lowe, and Alexandre Singh, "Hello Meth Lab in the Sun" (Ballroom Marfa, Marfa, TX) With entry into this behemoth of an installation, or "total environment," came a creeping anxiety as contemporary time and place were replaced by a devastated setting of perhaps two decades past. Passing from room to room, one encountered the detritus of addiction's insanity, along with bizarre assemblages of new-age and druggie ephemera—evidence that "natural magic" failed to meet its utopian ideals. Less a house of horrors than a distillation and magnification of hippiedom's myriad failures, the temporary work was both an allegory and a warped reflection of 2008.