

CUE

THURSDAY

Dear Abby: Bedtime battle over the blanket. 2E Good Morning: Comics, puzzles. 2-3E
TV: Tonight's listings. 4E Scout's honor: Teen pays tribute to grandmother. 4E



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Value deals

Exhibits add color to winter

'Big, Big Bangs/ Small, Small Bucks'

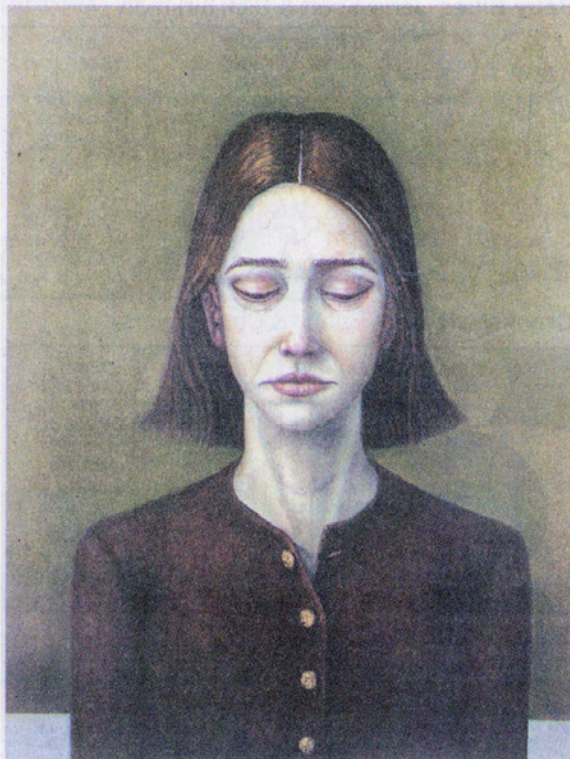
In the hands of many gallery owners, this expansive show of inexpensive artworks would simply be a collection of things. The elegance of this post-bust show, designed to make art affordable in a tough economic time, is in the subtle groupings that Dean Jensen creates.

The minimalist tones and textures of the natural world are explored in the work of Karen Laudon, Ragna Robertsdottir and Joan Backes, though in entirely different ways, for instance. Sonja Thomsen's abstracted images of water and Sandra Newbury's closely cropped, obscured photographs of human skin hang side by side, sharing an affinity as well.

I loved Mayuko Kono's small, ghostly dog figures, delicate, hand-sanded plastic figurines that remind us of how transient these faithful companions can be. And in the back, set off by themselves, were Rafael Salas' trio of menacing, and sometimes humorous, paintings of women, including "The Woman Who Drank the Ocean," in which a woman seems to hold an ocean of emotion within her as her skin turns putrid and sickly white.

The show is a departure for Dean Jensen, both in scale and by the artists he's included, many of which are on view courtesy of the Green Gallery. It is on view at Dean Jensen, 759 N. Water St., through Jan. 24.

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For more information and images
from these shows go to Art City,
www.jsonline.com/links/artcity.



Rafael Salas' "The Woman Who Drank the Ocean" is at Dean Jensen.

By MARY LOUISE SCHUMACHER
Journal Sentinel art critic

Art can be a wonderful antidote for frigid temperatures, cabin fever and slim wallets. Here are a few worthwhile exhibits on view this month that will cost you little or nothing to see.