

GAGOSIAN GALLERY

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Art in Review

Robert Therrien

Gagosian
555 West 24th Street, Chelsea
Through June 14

One of the most transporting experiences to be had in Chelsea now is in a section of the Los Angeles sculptor Robert Therrien's show: in a long, dimly lighted hall, a magical installation of

greatly enlarged metal folding chairs and card tables.

Four gargantuan tables and 16 giant chairs in industrial colors of brown, beige and green have been crowded into the space. One of the tables has been turned upside down on top of another so that its legs soar high into the air. Another table and most of the chairs are folded up and leaning against the walls. Wandering under the eight-foot-high tabletops and among lamppost-size chair and table legs is like a dream. It feels as if you have been shrunk to the size of a 3-year-old.

The furniture also has terrific formal beauty. Notice the realism of the green pieces, which have been subtly rusted and water-stained.

A stack of giant pots and pans in another, smaller room is also impressive, but the rest of Mr. Therrien's exhibition, scattered around Gagosian's too-big main showroom, is a letdown. It includes stacks of oversize plastic soup bowls; collections of normal and miniature pots and pans; and a closet crammed with found red objects — pieces of clothing, toys, food products and much more — that is like a collaboration between Sarah Sze and Jason Rhoades. Everything is interesting and amusing, but nothing animates the space the way the enlarged folding furniture does.

KEN JOHNSON