

Wednesday, April 11, 2007

Must See Art

*Paul McCarthy lecture at the UCLA Hammer Museum and
"Sick-Amour" by Joel Tauber at Susanne Vielmetter*

By Amra Brooks



Joel Tauber, *My Lonely Tree* (2007)
(Courtesy Joel Tauber/Susanne Vielmetter)

"Sick-Amour" by Joel Tauber at Susanne Vielmetter

Entering into Joel Tauber's installation at Susanne Vielmetter is like watching a maniacal obsessive-compulsive actually do something productive with his disorder. Inspired by the Persian emperor Xerxes (who fell in love with a tree, adorned it with ornaments and assigned it a protective guard), Tauber has adopted a sycamore in the Rose Bowl parking lot. Tauber narrates the entire experience in a neurotic, Muppet-like voice on video monitors throughout the gallery, illustrating a blatantly romantic relationship with his chosen tree, as well as the ins and outs of the legal process involved in saving it. One of the most humorous and heroic pieces of this elaborate puzzle is a video of Tauber, dressed as a city worker, jackhammering the blacktop below the sycamore and installing tree guards to protect it from being hit by cars. Tauber's project has received a lot of attention, and the city of Pasadena and the Rose Bowl are working with him. You can make donations to help support the tree and Tauber's project by contacting office@laxart.org.

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