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12/22/06 by Annette Monnier



THE CAPTIVES at Foxy Production till January 6th.

The last time I saw [Jimmy Baker](#) he was installing [Barbaric Stories](#) with Matt Coors at Black Floor Gallery. Now he has a show at [Foxy Production](#) in Chelsea.

Jimmy's work is quiet with an edge and very clean. He comments on pop culture without barraging us with imagery or color. You get the feeling that he feels the world might be a lonely and gothic place to live.

The work is pretty theatrical. The apocalypse is near. Everything points to the end: black drips, skeleton hands, cities on computer monitors, and portraits of metal musicians arranged in pentangles. Jimmy balances this with a view to the classical gallery arrangement: lots of white wall showing in between each piece, and 18th century-type painting skill, only here it reads like walking through a haunted house.

Together the work is an investigation of war, torture, technology, and listening to metal music. Sometimes all of these combine.

Ghost typifies Jimmy's thesis. Each of the skeleton arms holds a CD. One Compact Disc is audio of Baker playing Slayer, the other is audio of Eminem. Over each piece of audio are news reports of Slayer and Eminem's music being used in psychological torture sessions.



*Ghost*



*Controlled Room*



Detail of flat-screen TV containing a satellite photograph from *Controlled Room*.



<detonator< i="">(Jimmy's old cell-phone in a vitrine).</detonator<>



*The Prophets*



Detail from *The Prophets*.