

# Art

By Edith Newhall  
FOR THE INQUIRER

## Gentle facsimiles

The facsimile may not be the biggest trend around, but unlike some others, it seems to have legs. I'm thinking of Warhol's Brillo box, Richard Pettibone's miniature replicas of other famous artists' works, Steve Wolfe's fool-the-eye "books," and Charles LeDray's tiny, handmade versions of grown-up clothing.

Joseph Hu's paper and cardboard constructions at Vox Populi occupy a territory unto themselves, projecting a childlike innocence that sets them apart from their facsimile forebears. They are not exact copies of the objects they portray, and they can be life-size, like Hu's *Strawberry*, which looks like a Chapstick, or rendered in miniature, like his little dump truck titled *Summer of 2000, From Atlantic City #2*.

They are unprepossessing, though not remarkably so the way the Warhol Brillo box was. What they have in spades is a gentle, faintly nostalgic quality, as if they were made by someone who had never seen objects of popular culture but had heard them described in loving detail. That sense of having



**Joseph Hu's cardboard construction** "Summer of 2000, From Atlantic City #2," is at Vox Populi through April 30: Childlike innocence.

been filtered through personal memory gives these works an understated magnetism.

Vox Populi, 1315 Cherry St., noon to 6 p.m.  
Wednesdays through Sundays. Information:  
215-568-5513 or [www.voxpopuligallery.org](http://www.voxpopuligallery.org).  
Through April 30.