



By: Trent Morse

**CHRIS COFFIN AND JONATHAN BRILLIANT**

DAM, STUHLTRAGER, 38 MARCY AVE., THROUGH 10/12

## Trent's Top 5 Area Gallery Picks

Chris Coffin's photo portraits of weather-beaten buoys exude charisma. Much of this charm has to do with the floats' proportions, which, though oddly shaped, approximate the human head. The buoys were hand-painted with identifiable colors and markings by the Atlantic lobster trappers who originally used them, and several are remarkably artistic, in a Mark Rothko-esque way. The portraits accompany Coffin's *Water Drawing* (2001), a video-recorded performance in which he

straps a 300-foot line of buoys to his torso and swims in undulating patterns off the coast of Newport, Rhode Island. Jonathan Brilliant fills a separate room with a curvaceous sculpture made up of 50,000 wooden coffee stirrers. The piece gibes at British land artist Andy Goldsworthy, who creates sculptural works by rearranging natural objects in the countryside, except Brilliant uses the coffee shop as his "natural" environment. This installation is, in a word, brilliant.