

# ARTFORUM



*Looping*, 2007–2008, steel, fiberglass, epoxy resin, enamel paint, foam, cement board, and glass mosaic, 120 x 108 x 78".

LOS ANGELES

## Mindy Shapero

ANNA HELWING GALLERY  
2766 S. La Cienega Boulevard  
March 1–April 15, 2008

The current crafting scene has generated an ever more complex DIY aesthetic fueled equally by environmentalism and the countering of consumer culture. Though it seems a stretch to pair such a free-spirited sensibility with the formal purity of Minimalist

painting, try adding the resonant power of ancient artifacts and the bright colors of a confetti-drenched fiesta to the mix, and you will have a sense of Mindy Shapero's new work. The evocative mosaic drawings and four distinctive sculptures in her third solo exhibition at the gallery demonstrate an increasingly fresh and idiosyncratic vision. *Head*, 2007–2008, is the best example of Shapero's new level of refinement. At first, the sculpture appears to be made of rock, then, on closer inspection, Popsicle sticks. But in fact, the four distinct faces on this oblong steel head are made from thousands of tiny, rounded bits of neon paper, each of which is coated on both sides with flat black paint so that the dark scales are rimmed by slivers of color. The result is a deadpan confluence of Mount Rushmore, Minimalism, and concentrated play. Another sculpture seems sturdy enough to withstand the weather. A riot of color, *Looping*, 2007–2008, features capriciously uneven stripes snaking across a white ground in an ecstatic swirl of steel, fiberglass, resin, and enamel. In both form and content, this work combines the mystery of a deep-sea creature with the thrill of a roller coaster, suggesting a template for a more playful, feminized sculpture than is commonly associated with the use of steel.

— Annie Buckley