



The we of weewerk

By Catherine Osborne

There are at least sixty in the room and the place is jammed. Tops 'n' Bottoms Ensemble are here doing their costume dress-up routine for fans and selling copies of their zine, while laser rock band Vzst performs in one corner of the room. "Fifty is the best," says artist Germaine Koh, about the number of people it takes to fill her livingroom/art salon to capacity.

Last November, Koh and Phil Klygo decided they'd rename their 350-square-foot second-floor apartment "weewerk" and host mini-size art discussions, screenings, concerts, and events every few weeks. The scale of the whole project is as modest as their space, but the community of artists and musicians participating has been impressive and nonstop.

The two have fine-tuned operations to a doable system—upcoming events are posted at weewerk.com, e-notices go out to subscribers, and people turn up. They turn up to hear Bob Wiseman perform with the Damn Ugly Children, to talk to filmmakers Bruce LaBruce and Scott Trevelan about art and morality. And they drop in to see art shows like Bauhauswerk, a group exhibition about the morphing of art, design, craft, architecture, and modernist rhetoric. That show included

one of Kelly Mark's elaborate Letraset drawings, made from hundreds of black letters and numbers, each rubbed in a swirling pattern across the wall. There was also Derek Sullivan's modest revolutionary slogan, a cheery banner of support for the austere modern architecture of Mies van der Rohe that read, "Give Mies a Chance."

None of weewerk's events last too long. Most wrap-up within a day, or a night, even within a few hours. Some stuff is for anyone to check out, some isn't. The website fills in for a lack of any regular hours and the online archive details everything that's taken place in the past four months.

"I'd thought about opening a gallery," says Koh, about starting weewerk, "and also a bar, so this made sense. Plus, Phil has an excess of ideas." They both do, and are already well known for their day jobs. Klygo runs his own record label, Teenage USA Recordings, while Koh's art exhibition schedule includes trips to Tokyo, Sydney, and Frankfurt over the next few months.

Weewerk will live on, however, even when "phil+germ" take off. Koh's planning on launching weewerk spot radio by taking a suitcase-size transmitter with her to Japan for some local weewerk broadcasting. ●

