



## THE ART NEWSPAPER

4 NEW YORK

COMMERCIAL GALLERIES

THE ART NEWSPAPER, NO. 133, FEBRUARY 2003

Chosen by Adrian Dannatt



### Hannelore Baron: collages and box constructions

#### Senior & Shopmaker Gallery

As with the work of many a self-taught artist, there is something strikingly contemporary about the obsessively fashioned collages and box constructions made by German-born Hannelore Baron, who landed in New York in the 1940s, having fled the Holocaust with her parents. Made from bits of paper, eroded wood, wire, cord and rusty nails, and sundry other humble materials, over 20 collages (left, "Untitled (C86 060), 1986") and 10 box constructions are on view at Senior & Shopmaker (until 1 March), coinciding with a touring US museum exhibition organised by the Smithsonian and currently at the Neuberger Museum of Art in Purchase New York (until 23 March). These works are akin to African ritual objects with their accumulations of organic materials, but also share qualities with the work of Joseph Beuys, the collages of Kurt Schwitters and Joseph Cornell's boxes. Baron's art was an intensely private project. In the literature on her, it is presented as a means of coping not only with her past (she witnessed her father beaten during the Kristallnacht), but also with her periodic bouts of depression and, later, her struggle with breast cancer (of which she died in 1987). In fact, gallery and museum exhibitions of this work are slightly uneasy endeavours, given that much of it was not necessarily meant for public display.