

## | Reviews



**Tam Ochiai,**  
**"tail (exercises in punctuation)"**  
 Team Gallery, through Sept 24  
 (see Chelsea).

This Japanese-born, New York-based artist's fourth solo show at Team Gallery is the culmination of a year spent focused on drawing and

the walls. Distributed around the gallery are images of a Union Jack, mathematical equations clocks, and figures, made with colored pencils. While some of the kids adhered to the task of making accurate copies, others rejected the notion in favor of their own unique drawings—ranging from

collaboration. For the main installation, Ochiai invited 32 children, many from a Chelsea summer camp program and all between the ages of 2 and 12, to copy original drawings of his directly onto

scribbles and words to faces.

The gallery's back room is devoted to works made solely by Ochiai. On one wall is a grid of 60 drawings titled *tail (cinema)*, including washy color fields, eyes floating in space, a fashionably gamine girl and cats. On another wall, a large drawing titled *fur (white)* looks from a distance like a blank piece of paper, but close scrutiny reveals thousands of short, lightly colored pencil strokes.

Similarly, at first glance viewers may be unable to distinguish between the drawings made by the children and those made by the artist. But careful viewing magnifies Ochiai's consistent, whimsical style. The show's aura of the slightly amateur and illustrative is balanced by serious questions about authorship, authenticity and innocence. Ochiai delivers a show that is lighthearted, subtle and, above all, contemplative, at the tail end of summer.—Adam Mendelsohn