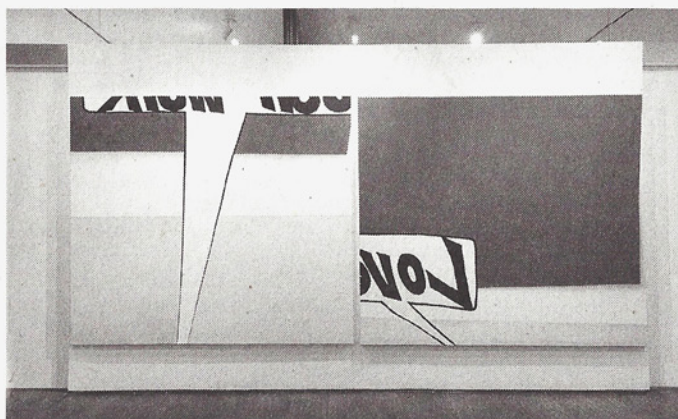


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Art in Review



ADAM REICH/ON STELLAR RAYS

An installation view of Rochelle Feinstein's solo exhibition "Love Vibe," comprising six paintings, at On Stellar Rays.

Rochelle Feinstein

'Love Vibe'

*On Stellar Rays
1 Rivington Street, between
Bowery and Chrystie Streets,
Lower East Side
Through May 11*

In her latest show, the wryly autobiographical painter Rochelle Feinstein explores a vacuous bit of art world parlance: the

phrase "Love your work," typically delivered with an air kiss. Manipulating it with humor and surgical dexterity, she finds hidden reserves of meaning.

The words float, in cartoon speech bubbles, through her installation of six large paintings. Each has a bright green back-

ground, which we are meant to see as a kind of "green screen" (to judge from a digital projection near the reception desk) that suggests any number of possible settings. And each text must be read in mirror image, defamiliarizing the words.

The placement of the bubbles

varies; as you look around the room, they appear to rise and fall, or to shift left and right. Sometimes they are cropped so that only snippets of the original phrase — "Love You" or "Work" — are legible. The subtext shifts accordingly, from hyperbolic admiration to purposeful exhortation. Sometimes the whole phrase becomes a kind of mantra, transcending its breezier associations.

With remarkable economy, not to mention painterly brio, Ms. Feinstein turns a cocktail party platitude into a symphonic arrangement of the many different voices heard by creative professionals. And she reminds us that although the art world is inherently social, it's sometimes necessary for the people who make art or look at it to tune out all the chatter. **KAREN ROSENBERG**