

NINA KATCHADOURIAN

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In a clever spin on “smart” technologies, the artist has doctored a commercial popcorn maker: she added a computer that converts the staccato sounds of popping into Morse code, which it simultaneously displays and reads aloud. (The gallery is stocked with self-serve bags for hungry viewers.) Nonsense like “mlvni” is typical, but once a day the artist comes in to parse the text, extracting words like “lob” and “hi” from the garble. Vacuum packs of popcorn, tacked to the wall, cite her findings, and a case of cast-bronze kernels commemorates the talking corn’s first word. The project may bring to mind the work of Jeffrey Valance (who also lampoons the desire to extract meaning from the meaningless) and of Charles Long (who cast kernels in the early nineties). But it’s still fresh. Through Feb. 24. (Debs, 525 W. 26th St. 643-2070.)