

## ARTFORUM

**Brian Dewan and Leon Dewan****PIEROGI****177 North Ninth Street****December 31–January 30**

Installation view, 2006.

Pierogi's wall-bound, department store–esque presentation of Brian and Leon Dewan's "hand-crafted semiautomatic musical instruments" is without doubt the early favorite for the Best Interactive Show of 2006. Merging the homemade synth tones of NYC's late-'60s techno-hippies The Silver Apples with a double shot of Sun Ra's reverent otherworldliness, the cousins have created seventeen effusive sculpture-instruments, most of which look like the offspring of a grandfather clock and a robot. Given titles like *The Administrator*, 2005, or *Speaker of the House*, 2005, these devices (many made from handsome birch wood) and their forest of switches and knobs project both hypnotizing astral soundscapes and an authority reminiscent of the dictatorial computer from Godard's *Alphaville*. The Dewans' machines, however, are more generous than the mind-melting Alpha 60; viewers are encouraged to override the creators' authorship by spinning the ubiquitous oscillators, effectively contributing to an eternal collaborative composition. (Each piece is programmed to emit a noise at a predetermined interval.) The Dewans have improvised on their own creations on Saturday nights at the gallery and performances will continue throughout the show's duration.

—Nick Stillman

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