

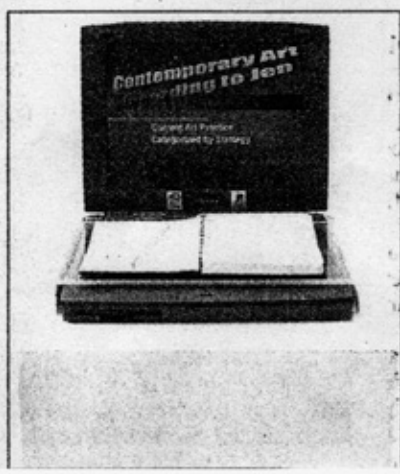
# Arts

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2004

## HERE & NOW



Sometimes you just need a PowerPoint presentation to get what's going on. Jennifer Dalton delivers with "Contemporary Art According to Jen," at the Curator's Office Thursday.



### ART

**AT FIRST GLANCE**, any big survey of contemporary art is likely to come across as an anything-goes mess of unrelated objects. But hang around in the art world long enough and you start to notice that a certain sameness, built around a handful of recurrent themes and strategies, underlies all that variety. In a witty PowerPoint presentation called "Contemporary Art According to Jen," screening Thursday at a tiny 14th Street space called Curator's Office, Brooklyn artist Jennifer Dalton has churned that sameness into a work of art. Over the course of a five-minute loop, a series of PowerPoint slides—complete with lame clip-art illustrations—sorts some of our best-known artists into 32 convincing categories. Under the title "Tons of Little Things Become One Big Thing," Dalton lists famous accumulators Nancy Rubins, Tom Friedman and Sarah Sze. The heading "Being an Artist Is Cool, but Being a Rock Star Would Be Cooler" pulls in Old Master modernist Andy Warhol, but also postmodern hipsters such as Mike Kelly and Rodney Graham. And then there's one of the most important, timeless categories of contemporary art: "Something Really Important Is Being Addressed, but It's Difficult to Say What." Matthew Barney leads that list, but Robert Gober, Douglas Gordon, Rachel Whiteread and lots of others get on it, too. If you want further boning up on who does what today, for \$100 you can take home one of 100 CD-ROMs of Dalton's piece. Full disclosure: I bought one.

—Blake Gopnik

At Curator's Office, 1515 14th St. NW. Thursday from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Free. Call 202-360-2573.