

## At Meat Market, It's a Man's World

By Jessica Dawson

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Here we have a pair of artists examining contemporary masculinity. Benjamin Jurgensen's commanding, if surreal, sculptural tableaux juxtapose painted wood replicas of young men's favorite objects: A milk carton holds a record player that's attached suggestively to a muffler; a velvet rope penetrates a folding chair. Rendering these objects as painted wood sculpture deadens but also memorializes them; their arrangements will give a Freudian pause. In the gallery's rear room, Paul Jeffrey's photographs capture empty strip-club interiors and a basement packed with taxidermied animals. The pictures hardly reek of testosterone: In the club, the only marks of athleticism and prowess are the skid marks left by the dancer's heels. Among the animals clustered in a wood-paneled family room, femininity -- in the form of a wax fruit bowl on a dining table, quilted headrests and overstuffed chairs -- rules.

"Conscious Inaction" at Meat Market Gallery, 1636 17th St. NW, Monday-Saturday noon-6 p.m., Sunday noon-3 p.m., 202-328-6328, to Sept. 30  
<http://www.meatmarketgallery.com>.