

Weekend

The New York Times

By JOHN RUSSELL

Other exhibitions of interest:

"Selection From the Unaffiliated Artists File" (Artists Space, 105 Hudson Street): One of the many services rendered by Artists Space to the art community is that it keeps a file of New York State artists who have no gallery affiliation but would like, somewhere and somehow, to show their work. This exhibition is of work by 11 of them, assembled by Linda Shearer, director of Artists Space. It has its rugged moments, but those who persevere will find at least two artists of exceptional quality.

The first of these is John Miller, who is 28 years old and comes from Cleveland. He fills a long corridor with quite small drawings in a large variety of styles. They form, in effect, a visual diary in which every entry has something different to tell us. Don't be put off by the adjective "semiological," which has been applied to his particular sensibility. Mr. Miller has a sense of parody, a sense of wonder and a remarkably nimble way with pencil and paper.

To the left at the end of that same corridor is a roomful of sculptures by Marcia Dalby that is to my mind one of the most remarkable things now on view in New York. Miss Dalby is 24, and came to New York two years ago from Philadelphia. Her sculptures are made of chicken wire covered with cheesecloth and just lightly touched over with acrylic.

There are 61 of them. The visitor is not so much surrounded as enveloped by objects that crouch at his feet, climb up the walls and are all set to take over the ceiling. They are made with a complete disregard for normal scale, and their subject matter includes a bear, a rabbit, a spider, a king-size woodpecker, a helicopter, a pair of binoculars, a spade, a saw, two very large hats and a pair of waders. They are wittily turned, without exception, and as an ensemble they give off an ectoplasmic glow that seems to fill the entire room with dry white fog. This is a very curious experience, and I recommend it highly. (Through Oct. 30.)