

'Dead Flowers' shows beauty in deterioration

Published on: 11/01/2007

There may be more dead flowers than usual in this drought-ridden autumn, but Eyedrum's "Dead Flowers: Haunted Gardens; Seeded Wastelands" makes something with them.

Stan Woodard, for example, covered an entire hallway ceiling with withered kudzu.



Alison Weldon has left a fresh bouquet to decay in a glass bell jar. The results are more lovely than you might expect.

And Pandra Williams has shaped 11,000 pounds of Atlanta clay into adobe blocks and built a hillock reminiscent of ancient tombs. "Urban Tumulus" is completed by a covering of organic mulch from Atlanta yard waste and tall grasses harvested from southwest Atlanta sidewalks.



The poetics of rot are pretty much all over this show, though many of the flowers have dried out rather decoratively.

But curator Susan Cipcic (with Deisha Oliver, Karen Tauches and Shana Wood) has come up with an idea that encompasses sadness and natural cycles in a single package. Such artworks as Mario Petirena's sculptures or Julia Kubica's dark images of tree roots add little more than a grace note to the spectacle Mother Nature herself accomplishes when you assemble her flowers and mosses indoors.

- THE 411: "Dead Flowers: Haunted Gardens; Seed Wastelands." Through Nov. 24. 3 p.m.–8 p.m. Fridays, 1–6 p.m. Saturdays–Sundays. Eyedrum, 290 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive, Suite 8, Atlanta. 404-522-0655, www.eyedrum.org.

Top: 'Urban Tumulus' by Pandra Williams; 'Tomorrow Never Knows' by Alison Weldon

— Jerry Cullum