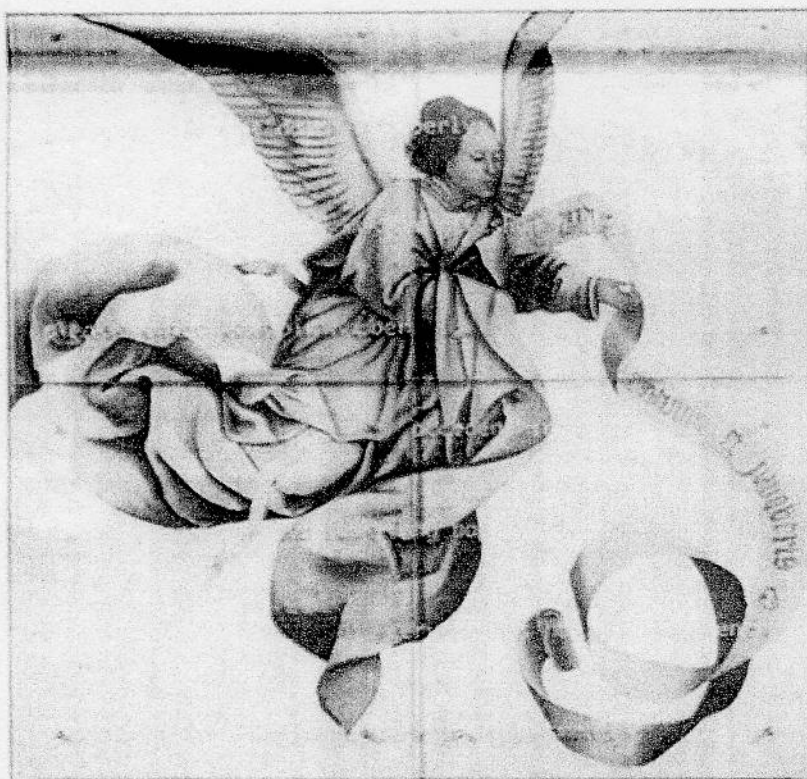


Sleek forms package the unexpected

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COURTESY BERNICE STEINBAUM GALLERY

TALKING PICTURE: Ken Aptekar's 'No one is available to . . . 2000' superimposes common modern-day phrases over an angel.

BERNICE STEINBAUM GALLERY

With Ed Ruscha's wonderful paintings of words on exhibit at the Miami Art Museum, those who like their pictures with prose may also be interested in *New Paintings: Angels?* by Ken Aptekar at the Bernice Steinbaum Gallery through Saturday.

Aptekar, a New York-based artist, has developed a reputation for constructing "talking pictures." Using a computer, he devises a composition based on an Old Master painting or other art of the past, then paints his version. Over this version he bolts a plate of glass, sandblasting it with teasing commentary.

He has brought this revisionist approach to works in the permanent collection of the Corcoran Gallery in Washington, D.C., and to a series that inserts Jewish traditions into Western art history.

It's a catchy ploy, one that is sparking talk about new ways to see art.

At Aptekar's gallery show, where, ethereal angels flit behind texts that tell stories about growing up Jewish and that tweak the bureaucratic business of art.

Elisa Turner is The Herald's art critic.