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Art in Review

By KAREN ROSENBERG

SEAN LANDERS

Set of Twelve

Friedrich Petzel

535 West 22nd Street, Chelsea

Through Nov. 15

Sean Landers is best known for his layered text paintings, which typically advertise his artistic triumphs and failures in tragicomic fashion. In his current installation, "Set of Twelve," Mr. Landers's obsessive monologues are spoken rather than painted. The piece reconfigures a series of soliloquy-style videos that Mr. Landers made in 1990, at the beginning of his career. The videos show a wry young artist updating the solipsistic formula of 1970s video art, testing the limits of his logorrhea.

Twelve videos play simultaneously on monitors arranged around the gallery's periphery. The voices compete for attention until you move in close to hear Mr. Landers sing along to the Beatles, debate whether to cut his hair or respond to Bob Ross's painting lessons on TV. Mr. Landers is a writer at heart, so the video camera sometimes seems like an unwelcome intermediary. He makes faces, swigs wine from the bottle and ambles across the rooftop of his studio, but mostly he sits and talks (and talks and talks).

More than anything, the installation reminds you how much of a "1990s artist" Mr. Landers is; in the current art world his professed ambivalence about fame and fortune seems as dated as his grunge hairstyle. But you could also say that his unchecked ramblings anticipated the pathological narcissism of the blogosphere. KAREN ROSENBERG