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ART: WORLD'S GREATEST IN A NEW YORK BASEMENT

By JOHN RUSSELL December 9, 1983

"Kay Kurt and Others" (Kornblee Gallery, 20 West 57th Street): Kay Kurt paints and draws candy. Sometimes she adds the silver dish on which the candies are presented. Sometimes she draws the package. But fundamentally, it is the candy itself that preoccupies her. Wrapped candies of German origin are to her what the Apollo Belvedere was to generations of European artists - the source from which visual bounty flows.

Her new show is small, because she works very slowly indeed, but it has some very good things in it. She works with the candy as other artists work with the human body. It comes dressed, and it comes undressed. Sometimes, when the candy doubles as sculpture (satyrs, cars, motorcycles, pacifiers), she works up some surreal conjunctions. But most times she takes the candy quite straight and with hypnotic results.

The poetic ensemble in the inner room includes work by six other artists, all of them good. This visitor noticed especially Billy Sullivan's big picture "2 Macdougall Street," in which the handling of a young woman's heavy winter coat warms us even as we look at it. (Through Dec. 31.)

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albertz benda

515 W 26th St | New York, NY | 10001
Tel 212.244.2579 | www.albertzbenda.com