C4 DAILY HAMPSHIRE GAZETTE

ARTS

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, .

## Pair finds noble living in a materials world

By LARRY PARNASS Staff Writer

NORTHAMPTON - A table on a porch sits shrouded in snow. A reader reaches for a shelved volume in a Whately bookshop. A farm boy lies atop his resting cow. Swimmers stroke their way, partly submerged, across a pool.

In alternating order, those are elements depicted in photographs by Genevieve Babin (the porch, the boy) and in sculptures by Harriet Diamond. The longtime friends are using a shared exhibit this month at Forbes Library to express how thoroughly, and singularly, humans invest themselves in their surroundings.

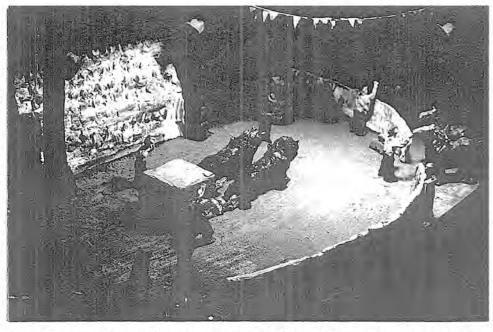
## ART REVIEW

Rather than segregate their work into separate halves of the gallery, Diamond and Babin are showing images and threedimensional figures as a single exhibit, "Distilled."

They succeed in finding fresh edges from both art forms that can nestle together here. They

Both women seek to show the subtle links. richness that can lie hidden in routine, or, as Babin puts it, to very close," Diamond said. shuck off indifference to the beauty of everyday life.

believes attempts like this falter straightforward, others only to Cummington Fair. when artists try too hard to line be found by visitors who walk



Harriet Diamond's painted ceramic sculpture titled "Horse Pull at the Cummington Fair" is part of the exhibit "Distilled," at the Hosmer Gallery of the Forbes Library in Northampton. The exhibit is a collaboration with photographs by Genevieve Babin. It runs through Sunday For information call (413)587-1013.

warm the hearth for one another, and Babin looked instead for keep their eyes open.

Diamond said Monday she unexpected places, some mounted scene from the its new owner in California.

I found a relatively obvious "I feel like our sensibilities are link in the pairing, across a section of floor, of Babin's pho-As they wished, the connectograph of the boy lying on his tions in "Distilled" hatch out of cow with Diamond's large table-

up what's obviously similar. She the exhibit, let time pass and terra cotta figures of man, beast and machine to recreate the fair's pulling pit. The grandstand is represented by a little wall of color, blurred to represent faces and bodies. That piece is headed. after the show ends Saturday, to

> The Forbes exhibit includes The sculpture uses painted two of Diamond's newest pieces, shadow becomes the tube's and Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5

a busy indoor swimming pool looser cousin, humbled and an antiquarian bookshop in acted upon in its lair ber Whately. Both scenes are as the surface. social as the fair, and as rich with implied story.

artists reach in unison to express freckles and a nose ring loo a respect for literature - in a the photographer from unc bookshop scene by Diamond and spray of black bangs. in a photograph by Babin of a girl reading. They also placed topped table at the center. two tributes to music - a cellist's table-in-winter title states tl practice by Diamond and a so plainly it teases out mo portrait of a young male guitarist and there are glorious laye by Babin - in close association. find in so simple an image

As it should be, the artists' pieces both stand alone and join of a tabletop has held back together. They spur contempla- that's sifted down to the sl: tion of what lies all around, in the deck below. Beneath prosaic scenes alive with human table lies another snowy c moments.

The union seems to elongate contains slightly less snow time. Babin's photographs stop difference, which an illust a moment, while Diamond's might break many pencil three-dimensional scenes bracket not just instances, but nature's ability to render e clutches of minutes.

After long working in a traditional darkroom, Babin says she closely at a ceramic sink, is now striving to obtain richness from digital printing. She developed an allergy to the silver gelatin process that compelled her to find a new way to work these dwellings, and quietly with film negatives.

She has reason to be pleased with the results.

Her "Piscine" is characteristically simple. A black tire tube Library gallery, whose hour floats in a pool, casting a shadow week are Tuesday, 9 a.m. whose shape is warped by light's p.m., Wednesday, 9 a.m. to 9 movement through water. The Thursday, 1 to 5 p.m. and F

Babin's portraits give us f right faces, slack with trus Elsewhere in the exhibit, the "Chez Bart's," a pretty girl

"Table En Hiver" puts a s

In the photograph, the c distinguished by the fa trying to suggest, is a mar thing it wishes.

In interior scenes, Babin cup and plate and at a run bed. The prints of men women are everywhere, in positions that purposely en ebrate our presence.

"Distilled" remains on through Saturday at the F