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Galleries

By Cate McQuaid GLOBE CORRESPONDENT

B. Lynch has made a life-size game out of our foibled pursuit of happiness in "Knaves vs Fools," her installation at the Creiger-Dane Gallery. Based loosely on Lynch's reading of Erasmus's 1509 treatise "Praise of Folly" and updated, this exhibit features outsize game pieces representing the forces we reckon with in trying to be wise. "Bishop of the Fourth Estate," for instance, represents the all-powerful god of media. He wears a newspaper cape, and a forked tongue sticks out from his copper-leaf face.

Then there are more traditional figures, like Bacchus, who epitomizes folly and risk in his revelry. Lynch makes her points with humor and colorful cutout figures laden with references from Greek mythology, hagiography, and other sources. The ancient stories are as valuable now as they have always been, since human nature doesn't seem to change. What fools we are, Lynch declares, and it seems we will never learn – and that's to be both lamented and rejoiced.

KIKI SMITH and JAMES STROUD: NEW PAINTINGS At: Barbara Krakow Gallery, 10 Newbury St., through Feb. 27

B. LYNCH: KNAVES vs FOOLS At: Creiger-Dane Gallery, 38 Newbury .St., through Feb. 27

THE NOHOME SHOW: ARCHITECTURE IN EXILE At: Boston Architectural Center, 320 Newbury St., through Feb. 25



"Game of Folly: Soldier of Fortune," one of B. Lynch's outsize game pieces representing the forces we reckon with in trying to be wise.