

CHURNER and CHURNER

the village
VOICE
Art

Best in Show

Wooster Enterprises, and Stan VanDerBeek.

By **Robert Shuster** *Wednesday, Aug 1 2012*

'Wooster Enterprises, 1976–1978' and Stan VanDerBeek

Noteworthy in particular for their historical interest, two small shows resurrect some forgotten art. At Churner and Churner, there's commercial but quirky graphic design from the short-lived Wooster Enterprises, a group founded in 1976 by Jaime Davidovich and Judith Henry, with help from Fluxus guru George Maciunas. Their stationery novelties—produced in do-it-yourself style, sold to stores across the country, and heralding the gift-shop tchotchkes of art museums—featured simple but unorthodox imagery: postcards of belly buttons, paper masks with grotesque faces, and an apron displaying the anatomy of the stomach.

Over at American Contemporary, you'll find some of the original source material for Stan VanDerBeek's animated films. Clippings from magazines, cleverly put in motion for satirical works such as *Science Friction* (1959) and *Breathdeath* (1963), are here assembled into collages of a similar surrealist bent, alternating with some of the filmmaker's early Beat-like poems of apocalyptic fears.