

# White America Has Lost Its Mind

By STEVEN THRASHER

## the village VOICE

BINS:  
OVAN'S  
SY  
KYARDHENT  
W  
OPPOSE  
DOWNT  
MOS

### Alejandro Almanza Pereda's concrete cascade.

By Christian Viveros-Fauné  
Wednesday, Sep 29 2010

For a second take on the poetry and, in this particular case, the violence inherent in the everyday, consider the work of the Mexican sculptor Alejandro Almanza Pereda. Currently on view at Magnan Metz Gallery in Chelsea, Almanza Pereda's collections of plaster sculpture and construction material teeter on the brink of catastrophic collapse—potentially with bone-crushing results.

One sculpture in this terrific show, *The Tie That Binds*, features a foundation's worth of cinder blocks snake-charmed into a vertical cascade no space-age cement can hold. The secret? A single thread of steel chain fastened by a padlock from which dangles a pound and a half of janitor's keys. A second sculpture consists of a multi-tiered framework built from fluorescent bulbs. The fact that each level supports several potted plants means that—as these grow—the sculpture will eventually overrun its scaffolding and blot out its skeleton of light.

Yet the best description of this thoughtful, intimidating exhibition belongs to the artist himself: "I imagine a structure that is contained by its contents: a museum contained by the artworks, a library contained by its books, an aquarium contained by water." Enough said.