

# KALEIDOSCOPE

## Lena Henke, "Heartbreak Highway" at Real Fine Arts



Among other claims to fame, Barren Island, a landmass set in Brooklyn's Jamaica Bay, is known locally for having housed a plant dedicated to rendering horse bones into glue (earning the surrounding waters the unofficial title "Dead Horse Bay"). That Brooklyn-based artist Lena Henke cites the island as a prominent point of reference for her latest work speaks not only to her personal infatuation with all things equine (she grew up on a horse farm in rural Germany), but also to her proven ability to find aesthetic potential in even the most obscure corners of her surroundings. "Heartbreak Highway," Henke's second solo outing with Real Fine Arts, features a series of mixed-media sculptures, hand-molded to resemble horse hooves and combined with empty milk cartons—a reference to the island's prior status as a home to rag pickers and waste workers. Pleasingly scrappy and characteristically strange, the works on display confirm the irreverence that makes Henke's output so consistently gratifying.