



AUGUST 15, 2011

GOINGS ON ABOUT TOWN: ART

ANDRA URSUTA

The young Romanian artist, whose work is also on view in the intriguing “*Ostalgia*,” at the New Museum, built a makeshift trebuchet—a giant medieval slingshot. Made out of salvaged wood, cardboard, and plastic, the contraption was apparently strong enough to rupture a wall when it hurled an effigy of the artist against it. Ursuta’s deliberately ham-fisted tableau is, in part, an homage to Ilya Kabakov’s famous 1984 installation, “*The Man Who Flew Into Space from His Apartment*,” an absurdist fantasy of escaping the restrictive Soviet regime. But seen in the context of an up-and-coming Lower East Side gallery, Ursuta’s installation reads as an allegory of a different kind of risk: for every high-flying Yves Klein, there’s an artist whose leap into the void falls flat. Through September 4, 2011