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Barton Lidice Benes

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Tony Cenicola/The New York Times

Bottom-Drawer Art

By THE NEW YORK TIMES

The artifactually obsessed artist Barton Benes is known for the intricate installations and elaborate reliquary he creates out of everyday materials. He is often asked what his medium is. "Glue," he said during a visit to his Manhattan studio. Lately he has been working on spheres encrusted with various objects, like soccer balls covered with pencils, religious medals or "objects from my bottom drawer," and baseballs covered with Mardi Gras beads. "I wish I could get my life organized the way I get all the stuff in my work organized," he said. An exhibition of his work opens at the Lennon, Weinberg Gallery in Chelsea on Nov. 30 with 24 pieces, and until then, he is leaving no object unturned.