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## Art in Review

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**JENNIFER NOCON**

Elective Affinities

*Tracy Williams Ltd.  
313 West Fourth Street, Greenwich Village  
Through April 21*

Jennifer Nocon has titled her first solo show after Goethe's romance novel "Elective Affinities." The book's premise is that when like is attracted to like, passion will ignite in disastrous ways, but when opposites come together, ardor is low, and so the potential exists for a long-term relationship. Ms. Nocon follows Goethe's lead but also suggests another possibility.

"Failure to Launch," an assortment of cream-colored felt sculptures (all her sculptures are felt), suggests love's pitfalls. One is a large pile cut to look like desert mistletoe, a parasitic plant that feeds off other plants until it suffocates them. Another, lodged into the baseboard, consists of lozenge-shaped pieces arranged to resemble an angel's broken wing.

A small, Captain Nemo-esque cabinet-of-curiosities installation, where each sculpture is a single color, suggests how opposites can coexist peacefully. Some of the felt desert mistletoe is wrapped tightly into a ball, so it can do no harm. A pile of buttercup-yellow miniature lozenges and a few strands of coral-colored felt mistletoe are separated but stand together as a unified group.

"Sea Floor" offers a third option, showing how things that are similar yet different can coexist peacefully but still experience passion. Here Ms. Nocon's familiar sculptural forms are made from a rich assortment of vibrant autumnal hues, intertwined with one another. The effect creates a lusciousness that recalls underwater views of the Great Barrier Reef.

*BRIDGET L. GOODBODY*