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***THE LISTINGS: JUNE 24-JULY 1;  
ARTHUR SIMMS*****By Ken Johnson**

Some homeless people contrive the illusion of owning property by bundling found and mostly useless material into great aggregates that they load onto shopping carts or other wheeled vehicles. The sculptures of Arthur Simms, a Brooklyn resident who represented his homeland of Jamaica in the 2001 Venice Biennale, call to mind this sort of roving, often mentally eccentric pack rat. The earlier pieces in his show of works dating from 1989 to the present consist of quantities of junk -- rags, old shoes, milk crates, tools, plumbing parts and so on -- wrapped in dense cocoons of rope. These massive, bulging constructions, some standing on wheels, exude an uncanny power in proportion to the urban poverty that they evoke. In recent works, like "Blue Chair" or "Carnival" (above), the found constituents are more discernible: the frames of a blue metal chair and an old wooden one wrapped in a delicate net of copper wire in the one instance; the gold-foil wrapped skateboard, the clear bottle, the wooden shoe form and the bird cage all pulled together by twine webbing and looking a bit like a small dog in the second case. The tradition of the Surrealist assemblage lies behind these works, but they are not so self-congratulatingly witty as such objects can be; Mr. Simms's works are sophisticatedly absurd, but there is a touching pathos about them, too. His is a tender reclamation project; he is a saver of lost souls. (Five Myles, 558 St. Johns Place, Crown Heights, Brooklyn, (718)783-4438, through July 10.) KEN JOHNSON