

LEILA HELLER GALLERY.

Art in America



Ran Hwang

at Leila Heller,
through Mar. 21
568 W 25th St.

Known for rendering Asian motifs—Buddhas, flowers, birds, temples, vessels, blossoming tree limbs—in luscious color combinations using thousands of buttons pinned to monochrome panels, the Korean-born Ran Hwang here introduces an unusually ominous element to her otherwise idyllic scenes. Spiders, in the form of both sculptural creatures and projected video, have invaded several of the works, notably a large installation that could serve as a stage flat for a drama about ephemerality and quiet snake-in-the-garden-style evil.