

# Time Out

London's weekly guide

December 30-January 6 1993 No.1167

## ART: PREVIEW

Jane Mulfinger

### BERNING & DAW

The biggest things here are pieces of glass engraved with jokes: Irish jokes, jokes about Sicilians (in French) and jokes in various languages about national characters. These are brightly lit and held off the wall so the shadows are more legible than the engraved words which cast them. Meaning, I suppose, that in life the things with power (social and personal) are the intangible ones. Put more simply, jokes (however 'innocent') are meant.

There are shelves with pairs of spectacles on them, their lenses engraved with the score of Debussy's 'La Mer'. The shadow of the music is cast, distorted, on a blue backboard: as on the back of the mind, perhaps. Music-coloured spectacles. Her ideas have the literary feel of things translated into visual ideas. Titles include the 'The Laconic Dream', 'The Testament of Bernadette', 'The Delicate Nightmare'. Perhaps she just looked up 'vision' in the Thesaurus and took it



from there. She tackles the relation between the seen and the unseen — the subject of all art, of course — and she pulls it off. There are rayograms of engraved spectacles which are quite interesting, some prints which aren't very good, and found photos overlaid with braille which are better, having that slightly retro, collage-artist feel which characterises her best work. *David Lillington*