

Creative Spins

Strange things can happen to bicycles when artists get hold of them. Inflatable toys might sprout from their handlebars and seats in a neon bouquet. Rattan and rubber weave could choke their wheels and pedals. Bikes may be remodeled in wood and glue, laid lovingly on their sides, and claim to symbolize boyhood. Or be cast in bronze and yoked together like beasts of burden. Such assemblages (by **Cai Guo-Qiang**, **Jarbas Lopes**, **Jonathan Brand**, and **Subodh Gupta**, respectively) will be featured in "Bike Rides," an exhibition opening on the 4th of next month at the Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum in

achieve their own ideal bike and to explore the role of bikes in their societies." For example, the Queens-based collective **Future Shock** is made up of young Trinidadians who share a love for the sound-speaker-adorned bikes ridden in their native Caribbean community. Raising these "stereobikes" to greater heights—literally—Future Shock artists pile 8,500 watts of stereo equipment on their bicycles, taking functional art to new places as they blast through the streets of New York.

The show kicks off with an enormous bike parade for which participants were asked to adapt their own bicycles into personal statements. Brand, along with Puerto Rican artist **Miguel Luciano**, will judge a competition for the two-wheeler best transformed from its standard utilitarian function. "Some teenagers put blenders in their bikes so



Miguel Luciano's Pimp My Piragua, 2008, is in a new show of artist-designed bicycles.

Ridgefield, Connecticut, and lasting until January 3.

The artists in "Bike Rides" use bicycles to convey their "fetishes, nostalgia, and identity exploration," says **Mónica Ramírez-Montagut**, who is curating the show with exhibitions director **Richard Klein**. "They are trying to

they're doing smoothies as they're riding to school," says Ramírez-Montagut. "Some people are just decorating. But we're hoping to see a wide range of interpretations of bicycles in contemporary culture." The prize for the winner? A bike, naturally.

—*Jenny Brown*