

## Pia Catton on the Summer Gallery Scene



Stephen Haller in his gallery at 542 W. 26th St.

...After eating a few bites of the cola-flavored treat, I ducked into the Stephen Haller Gallery. What to do with the potentially dripping mess? Mr. Haller himself kindly offered to dispose of it (by polishing it off).

Given the oppressive humidity, this gallery owner—who wore a loose Indian-style shirt—was embracing the informal. “I always wear a suit, but this is like gauze,” he said.

During a quick tour, he pointed out some details, such as the blow-torched paintings by Ron Ehrlich, who studied ceramics at a Japanese monastery, and a haunting portrait by Linda Stojak, who had initially painted the work in red but went over it in black and white.

The group show is up until August 7, at which point Mr. Haller and his wife Cynthia will travel to the New Mexico Museum of Art to see a solo exhibition of one of their artists, Johnnie Winona Ross...

-Pia Catton

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