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ART

AN AFTERNOON IN CHELSEA WHICH SHOWS ARE WORTH THE SWELTERING SLOG?

BY KAREN ROSENBERG

Before all the galleries close and their staffs make the customary late-summer retreat to cooler climes, we offer this guide to the season's final must-sees.



3 "Strange Magic" Luhring Augustine 531 W. 24th St.; through July 28

Anne Collier's penetrating eyewithin-an-eye greets visitors to this show of five trendsetting female photographers. Eileen Quinlan's "Smoke & Mirrors" series reintroduces the clumsiest of special effects to a medium now besotted with seamless digital manipulation; her compositions, full of acute angles and acid-hued reflections, also have a graphic new-wave appeal. Liz Deschenes makes shimmery op-art moiré patterns by filtering light through perforated sheets, and, in the back room, Amy Granat projects scratched and punctured film. If the last few seasons were all about occult and "spirit" photography, this one seems to be forging a more scientific connection between light and paper.

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