

Charleston City Paper Reviews

JUNE 7, 2006

VISUAL ARTS | The Art of Music

Redux misses, commercial galleries hit in off-Piccolo art shows

BY [NICK SMITH](#)

Karin Olah makes the most of her allotted space in the Corrigan Gallery on Queen Street, where her *Meandering Thread* show has just opened. Olah's work has become more abstract in recent years, with less emphasis on familiar forms and more on the unusual light patterns and colors that she finds in Charleston. But *Thread* includes some local cityscapes as well, all painted in the artist's increasingly confident style. "To Lean" is a mixed media take on St. Michael's Church, and "Fragment — Chalmers Street" accentuates the thoroughfare's tire-trashing cobblestones as much as its buildings. By combining textiles and painting in her trademark patchwork shapes, Olah provides a unique take on her local surroundings and is beginning to gain quite a following. Her exhibition is on view through June 30.

MAY 31, 2006

CITY PICKS

VISUAL ARTS — A rising star's solo debut ***The Meandering Thread***

On view June 2-30

Opening reception: Fri. June 2, 5-8:30 p.m.

Corrigan Gallery

62 Queen St.

722-9868

www.corrigan-gallery.com

You may not think you've heard of Karin Olah, but if you've seen the new, 2006 Charleston Farmers' Market poster (the one with the tomatoes), you'll know her work. Olah is a well-rounded artist who spent years working in the textile industry after her graduation from art school, and her textural abstract paintings incorporate fabric — often antique textiles — that evoke the quilts she saw in her nascent years growing up in Amish country in Pennsylvania. In her debut solo show, Olah presents a wide variety of new works, many of which draw on her love of the sights, sounds, and smells of the Holy City. The show will be held at the recently-opened Corrigan Gallery, which aims to promote "art with a future" ... as far as Olah's future goes, just try to keep an eye out for the girl wearing shades.

MAY 17, 2006

VISUAL ARTS | Upscale

Artist/gallery owner Robert Lange expands his space and his range

BY [NICK SMITH](#)

While some of the artists' work was familiar to local art viewers — Karin Olah's fabric concoctions are a regular fixture at Corrigan Gallery, and Townsend Davidson's paintings occasionally crop up at Redux — they benefited from the gallery's extra space and light. Davidson's landscapes are around 60" x 84" in size, deep blue and imbued with humor. "The Craps Game" (oil on canvas) shows a giant, realistically depicted hand at the top of the frame, dropping pieces of a house through the sky. "The Single House" has a large cloud hanging over it, referencing a map of North America and the Sword of Damocles. In a mark of surrender, the house's window frames are bright white crosses.

Olah's "Balustrade" and "Honeysuckle 2" pieces consist of fabric, gouache, and graphite on paper. They have a delicate musical motif — treble clefs, instruments, and notation — along with the curls of rails or petals, and all of Olah's works benefit from a formic unity and shrewd choice of color.

MARCH 29, 2006

VISUAL ARTS | Moving Targets

Far-flung entries use unlikely stuff to make a juried show worthwhile

BY [NICK SMITH](#)

Karin Olah continues her fascination with abstract patterns and rich colors. As "A Discourse" drips downwards, its fabric scraps resemble a melting sofa that would get Dali's moustache twitching. Olah includes gouache and graphite to increase the oozing effect in an artwork that's freer than her abstracts on display at Corrigan Galleries;

MARCH 15, 2006

CITY PICKS

VISUAL ARTS — Redux aims for the bull's-eye

The Unlikely Target

Opening Sat. March 18, 6 p.m.

On view through April 13

Redux Contemporary Art Center

136 St. Philip St.

722-0697

www.reduxstudios.org

In the Redux tradition of presenting envelope-pushing artwork, the art center presents *The Unlikely Target*, a national juried painting exhibition featuring 20 artists from all over the world, including artist Ryan Scheidt from Berlin, Germany and two up-and-coming artists from right here in Charleston, Townsend Davidson and Karin Olah (an excerpt from Olah's "A Discourse" is pictured above). Juror Brad Thomas, the director and senior curator of the Smith/Avery Galleries at Davidson College, selected works that "challenge the traditional notions of painting and provide new and innovative approaches to the media," and with 20 unique viewpoints and styles represented, there should be a little something to pique every aesthete's interest.