

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

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A VIRTUOSO WITH LINE

Jessica Stockholder: Three Exhibitions

Mitchell-Innes & Nash: "Sailcloth Tears"

534 W. 26th St. Through June 13

Madison Square Park: "Flooded Chambers Maid" Through Aug. 15

Senior & Shopmaker Gallery: "Swiss Cheese Field" 21 E. 26th St.

Through July 2



Influential collage artist Jessica Stockholder is the reigning queen of the found object -- especially shag carpet and plastics. Seven of her installations can be seen at Mitchell-Innes & Nash, along with, in Madison Square Park, her first U.S. outdoor installation -- a large, colorful, interactive sculptural platform that engages with nature and will appeal to children and parents alike. An exhibition of her monoprint constructions is at Senior & Shopmaker Gallery.

Ms. Stockholder is a master of insouciance. She understands our complicated relationship to mass-produced materials. Throwing together a variety of fragmentary objects into witty, Frankensteinian installations, she turns garbage into gold. Ms. Stockholder can give a single bare light bulb a classic purity and a crumpled parasol the weight of withdrawal. Layering, cutting and painting carpets, she conjures illusionistic shadows and geological stratifications. Her best sculptures feel transformative; they have a totemic rise and purpose, as well as an organic sense of expansion and

wholeness. Other works, sprawling or hemmed in, though always considered, altered and arranged, do not move far enough beyond their origins as piles of junk.