

WALL PATROE

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Stendhal: "Beauty is nothing more than a promise of happiness." So much for beauty as truth. Or to quote the new record from **Too Much Joy**—"What are all those clowns so goddam sad about."

The big summer shakeout of gallery closings everyone predicted didn't come true. We did lose a few—hats off to **Carlo LaMagna**, **Rastovski**, **John Davis**, **Scott Hanson**, **Marcuse Pfeiffer**, and **Liz McDonald**. **Bianca of Trabia Gallery** linked up with **Kathy Ruttenberg of The Gallery**.

Photography has a new ally at **James Danziger Gallery** on W. B'way. In addition to classic E. Westons, they had sultry smoking classics by **Louis Meisel**.

Devon Dikeou uses "materials that blur authorship and normal viewing standards," as in Security/KIOSK 55"X55"X103" metal security gates 1990, on view at Ihara Ludens Gallery in Soho

Bernd and Hilla Becher's protege, German photographer **Candida Hoffer** will be at **Nicole Klagsbrun** in September. As part of the SVA graduation, our own photographer **Bob Berg** partied at **Quick**.

Summer group shows sagged a bit—but several shows really stood out. **Holly Solomon's** smaller works on paper showed off the artists in a mutually supporting way—water colors by **Robert Kushner** almost flowed into collage-like splashes by **Kim MacConnel**. **Thomas Lanigan Schmidt** opened up new territory in a non-referential piece using his familiar bits and snippets of unpretentiously cheap material. **Joe Zucker's** early blob work is still unique.

At **Hirschl & Adler** a continuation of repetition as a theme and mainspring in modernism. The museum-like show had cute felt stuff by **Beuys** as well as a slew of notable works by **Bruce Nauman**, **Gunther Forg**, **Claes Oldenburg** and many others. **Collins and Milazzo** are mounting an ambitious show, "The Last Decade," at **Tony Shafrazi Gallery** which includes a big catalogue.

At **CBGBs'** new space **CB's 313** our deputy **KK Kozik** showed in the "Survival and Denial" group show.

Musically the **New Music Seminar's** 11th season sprawled all over town. **Paul Simon** stood by me for a moment as I was schmoozing **Dawn Bridges** of **Polygram**

Records. **John S. Hall** at a showcase at **Chase Manhattan** on 3rd Ave. promised to get **Kramer** to send us his new record.

We liked **Annabel Lee** at **Under Acme**. **Larry Mitchell** at the **Cat Club** guitar night was like **Prince** meets **Hendrix**. The line at the **Palladium's** opening party was criminal and so we skipped the opening party.

At the **CBS** building I ran into **Spike Lee** in the elevator. Our deputy **Ilka** said she fell asleep in *Mo' Better Blues*.

Summer film fun included **CHARAS** film nights on E. 10th St. where **Jacob Burckhardt** showed *Landlord Blues*, and **Anthology Film Archives** which showed *No Picnic* for several weekends.

This fall on Sunday evenings **MWF Video Club** will be holding court—guest artists include **Lydia Lunch** and **Nick Zedd**. At ye olde **Knitting Factory**.

In print: We scanned **Kathy Acker's** new novel looking for sexy passages. Also from **Grove**, **Dennis Cooper** is still flying in the shadow of **DeSade**. At **Books & Co.** Sept. 11 are **Brooks Hansen** and **Nick Davis**, and on Sept. 25 **Alastair Reid** reads from **Pablo Neruda's** selected poems to mark the anniversary of the poet's death.

WWIII comics' third issue is fat with satire—political comics, art and illustration, with such **E.V.** staples such as **Seth Tobocman** and **James and Marguerite**, and with a terrific abortion rights panel by **Sabrina Jones**.