Hamptons LIVING

Where's the Art At?

No signs of a cool down for Hamptons art scene

- by Jeffrey Kopie-

SUMMER art

In the galleries

Halsey-McKay, a Newtown Lane gallery operated by curator Hilary Schaffner and artist Ryan Wallace, continues its high-level programming of vital new art with work by Andrew Kuo and Sarah Greenberger Rafferty downstairs, and Ryan Travis Christian on the second floor. Kuo's paintings seem to take their visual cue from both high modernism (Albers, Mondrian, Riley) and corporate brochure graphic design (pie-charts, bar graphs), their compositions determined by his charting of emotional states and meditations, which are provided in carbon transfer informational keys beside the images. The accompanying confessional texts are, by turns, sardonic, bittersweet and hilarious. In contrast to Kuo's strict geometry, Rafferty's large-scale, malvolent photographs on acetate are strenuously manipulated, with representational images morphing into near abstraction—the process integral to the artist's exploration of the body.

In the upstairs space, Chicago-based Ryan Travis Christian will exhibit large-scale graphite drawings, a potent combination of comic book imagery embedded in geometric chiaroscuro.

Following on August 10 and remaining on view until the 29, Halsey McKay brings in two Brooklyn-based painters: Eddie Martinez and Jose Lerma. Martinez's often-large canvases are packed to bursting with figures and bold, kinetic shapes and executed with a loud palette and muscular, urgent brushwork.

The subject of Lerma's paintings is history—both of the political/social type and that of art. Often starting with the appropriation of images from historical portraiture, the artist uses a wide range of media (including carpeting, towels and keyboards) and references a similarly wide range of art historical techniques to re-interpret and personalize the past—and collapse it into the present.