

SUMMER 2007

ARTnews

'Then and Now'

William Siegal

Inaugurating the gallery's new location in Santa Fe's developing rail-yard district, this show combined objects from Siegal's collection of antiquities and ancient textiles with the works of six contemporary artists: Polly Barton, Carlos Estrada-Vega, Colette Hosmer, Paula Roland, Signe Stuart, and Tom Waldron. The juxtaposition of old and new was sometimes startling, sometimes seamless, and overall quite pleasing.

Commanding particularly close attention were Hosmer's sculptures, created during a recent residency in Xiamen, China. They continue her graceful exploration of patterns in nature. Six fish carved in green granite—with unpolished clefts in their underbellies representing where they were gutted—swim in a pond of sand on the gallery's floor. Fifty cast-bronze pigs' tails, set on their ends, rise like sinuous snakes from the floor. Two bowls of eels—one carved in white marble, the other cast in fiberglass and painted shiny red—sit together like a pair of rough-hewn rosettes. The work continues Hosmer's career-long focus on animals as food sources. Though her sculptures are based on dead animals, they are not grotesque, but appear somehow imbued with life.

Polly Barton's subtle color-field weavings, with ikat wefts and painted warps in delicate, varied hues, blended in so well with the antiquities here that the casual observer

might have assumed her works were ancient textiles. Signe Stuart's eleven foot-long scrolls, hand painted on hand-made paper, likewise suggested sacred texts, despite the artist's use of contemporary mark making and geometric patterning.

—Hollis Walker



Colette Hosmer, *Fish*, 2006, green granite, 19" x 10" x 6" each piece.

William Siegal.