

# THE PHOENIX

## ART + BOOKS

FEATURE STORIES

The Phoenix  
Summer daze

Cool pickin's on Newbury Street and in the South End

By: CHRISTOPHER MILLIS

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Excerpt below

One of the invigorating qualities of summer art shows in Boston is their relative playfulness. Nobody expects to attract the multitudes and dazzle the critics — at least not in the same way those expectations kick in for fall and spring. So relaxation trumps seriousness, risks almost outnumber sure bets, and expansiveness prevails over narrowly defined themes. Too bad our summers aren't six months long.

The 15 artists at Barbara Krakow Gallery represent another juxtaposition of familiar luminaries (Chuck Close, Kara Walker) with lesser-knowns. Shellburne Thurber takes large (40x50) color photographs of the interiors of abandoned homes. These are not disaster photos — Thurber's interest lies in the attractiveness and allure of decay. Although the mattress is discolored and exposed and the plaster of the wall behind it peels from its lathing in her 1998 Chesson House: Abandoned Bed with Dark Window, the bed appears almost made up, as if some orderly ghost had arranged the blanket. The effect is tender without being sentimental: the decrepitude is too stark, the details of vanished habitation too clear not to conjure loss and remorse. Noteworthy too are the muscular, abstract sculptures of Terry Albright, the meticulous grid paintings of Bill Thompson, and the energetic, abstract lithographs of Terry Winters.

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BARBARA

KRAKOW GALLERY