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September 2013 is Like a Box of Chocolates

By Elizabeth Stevens
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Nan Swid, *NY 6*, 2013, encaustic on mixed media, 70 x 37.5 x 2.5 inches

One of the reasons that I returned to the East Village so soon was that my previous August art stomp with David Carbone ran longer than expected and we did not get to visit The Sweet Life, a local candy store on Hester Street. So before David and I headed off to see what the art world had to offer, my sweet tooth had to be placated with chocolate cherries and licorice Scotty dogs. What we found after David slapped me out of my diabetic coma was much like the selection at The Sweet Life, extremely surprising and varied.

...Almost a week later, David and I made it to Chelsea, where our first stop was **Margaret Thatcher Projects** to see the **Nan Swid** exhibition *In Formation* (September 19- October 19). Truthfully I was very excited to take David to Thatcher Projects because I love, love, love this show. Swid has assembled various handmade or appropriated books and objects that are richly coated in encaustic, good enough to eat. It also speaks to so many things I find missing in today's art, including the

surface detail as well as each section having its own contrasting identity. See "*NY 6*," (2013, encaustic on mixed media, 70 x 37.5 x 2.5 inches). David thought that "these post-minimal works recalled the pointed indifference to archivally stabile objects shared in the early monochrome works of Rauschenberg and Kline's black and white paintings, where he used cheap house paint." "Each piece foregrounds the death of its objects and seems to celebrate cultural loss, even as we look, the browning pages of these books are slowly burning. An interesting about-face for an artist who used to collaborate with architects, don't you think?" I agreed.



Elizabeth Stevens has been in Art and Antiques for 30 years, from representing her family's auction house in Cincinnati to Import Director at Hedley's New York in the early '90s to Salander O'Reilly Galleries, organizing art fairs and traveling exhibitions for more than 12 years. She is the former director of Yellow Bird Gallery in Newburgh, NY as well as the former Exhibitions Curator for the Thomas Cole House. She is now the owner of Elizabeth Stevens & Co. with offices in New York, New Jersey, and soon Florida.



*David Carbone is a painter, a critic, a curator and an educator. He has shown nationally in galleries and museums; written for *Modern Painters* and *The Sieneese Shredder* anthologies, among other publications; occasionally appeared on NPR's *Morning Edition* with David D'Arcy between 1992-2005; and curated selected retrospectives. He is currently the director of graduate studies in studio arts at the University at Albany, where he teaches painting.*