

# The New York Times

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## Weekend

### Art

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By MICHAEL BRENSON

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**Four Artists** (Artists Space, 223 West Broadway, near White Street): For this exhibition, the guest curator Elizabeth Murray has selected four artists — the sculptor Lisbeth Marano and the painters Margit Lewczuk, Dona Nelson and Jenny Snider. Each body of work is different. What the artists share is a quiet, searching approach, a feeling for craft and a concern with drawing.

Nelson's work has many of the strengths of current Expressionist painting without striving for attention and effect. Building her compositions around a centralized structure that suggests Philip Guston, the artist gives her everyday subjects a satisfying solidity. We feel the weight of her figures' feet, hands and arms. In "Winter Massage," the little finger of a masseuse's left hand triggers the composition in a way that suggests the compositional effect of the floating hand in Manet's "Déjeuner sur l'Herbe."

Snider works to compress large psychological tensions into small spaces. Lewczuk seems to build chaotic abstract fields, crammed with colors and shapes, which she then throws herself into and struggles to tame. The closer we move to the paintings and the more we look, the more the shapes and colors settle and assert themselves. (Through Wednesday.)