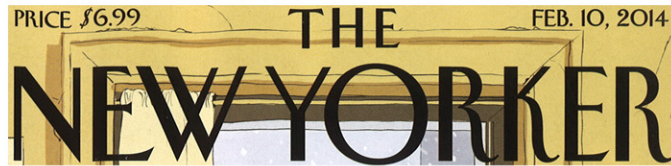


CHEIM & READ



ART

GALLERIES—CHELSEA

Lynda Benglis

The independent-minded American sculptor, who is seventy-two, surprises again with a new series of two dozen small ceramic works covered in colorful expressionist glazes. Instead of using a potter's wheel, Benglis pinches and squeezes the clay with her hands, and, just as in her more famous polyurethane pours, the works make a virtue of formlessness, fluidity, and straight-up chaos. Some of the sculptures have a distinct interior and exterior, but they're even better when she abandons that duality and leaves just a thrillingly unstable mess. Through Feb. 15. (Cheim & Read, 547 W. 25th St. 212-242-7727.)