

THE NEW YORK TIMES, FRIDAY, JULY 7, 2006

## Art in Review

### Justin Lowe

Helter Swelter

*Oliver Kamm/5BE*  
621 West 27th Street, Chelsea  
Through July 28

For his first solo exhibition, Justin Lowe has concocted an elaborate installation piece that almost entirely absorbs this modest gallery. It starts with a degree of three-dimensional realism that is unusual for him: a full-scale re-creation of a bodega that fills the gallery's reception area with appropriately dense and somewhat sticky displays of food and drink, none of it very nutritional.

It then segues through a looser evocation of a construction site that you quickly realize is the interior of a large truck. Exiting at the opposite end reveals it to be an 18-foot Kool Man Ice Cream truck. It will also deliver you to a womblike hippie heaven tiled with clothes wound into tight, colorful spirals. This is the place to get high if you have scored at either the bodega counter or the ice cream truck window, places that the gallery's Web site describes as "classic" drug fronts.

The progression from immigrant elbow grease to recreational consumption may comment on class difference as well as on summer in the city. But the fastidious re-creations preclude the sculptural invention and weird recycling of materials that are among Mr. Lowe's strengths. Only when you get to the padded floor does this extravaganza begin to feel like his work. Until then, it is just one more extra-labor-intensive, walk-in variation on Meret Oppenheim's fur-lined teacup, a frequent pitfall of late that Mr. Lowe has previously avoided.

ROBERTA SMITH