

## **The New York Times**

Weekend fine Arts and leisure  
Friday September 13<sup>th</sup> 2002  
Ken Johnson

Rowena Dring  
Elizabeth Dee gallery  
545 West 20<sup>th</sup> Street, Chelsea  
Through Oct. 5

Rowena Dring, a young English woman who lives in Amsterdam, makes pictures that appear at first to be Pop-style landscape paintings: photo-based pictures of forest waterfalls, leaves, vines and tall trees that are outlined cartoon-style and coloured in by high-contrast hues.

Up close you discover the remarkable fact that these complicated images are actually made by an elaborate appliqué technique. Using a sewing machine and black thread, Ms Dring produces her pictures by stitching countless pieces of coloured fabric to stretched canvases. This sets up a persuasive tension between the illusory and the material.

The effect is more impressive the bigger the size, as in a picture of a forest waterfall that measures 7 by 10 feet. In its expanse, percussive luminosity, it is like a Tiffany stained-glass window. Neil Weliver's patchy landscape paintings also come to mind as do the Photo-Pop paintings of Lisa Ruyter. Ms Dring's process could become formulaic, but the possibilities for future developments are intriguing.