

The New York Times

Copyright © 1997 The New York Times

NEW YORK, FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 1997

\$1 beyond the greater New York metrop

Weekend **FINE ART LEISURE**

ART GUIDE

"THREAD," Cristinerose Gallery, 529 West 20th Street, (212) 206-0297 (through Oct. 4). A well-chosen update on what was once called fiber art, and a reminder of how thoroughly and fruitfully Pop and crafts have merged. Mimi Smith is the pioneer here with three fresh-looking 1974 wall pieces that form rec-room furniture from measuring tapes. Bill Davenport joins coaster-like crocheted panels into a mural, and Jim Iserman turns hand-braided cotton into a large, cheerful sculptural lozenge. Ghada Amer embroiders pornographic images; Robin Kahn stitches an homage to female artists past and present. Brigitte Nahon's dusky installation of stretched black threads stands apart from the rest, recalling, in spirit at least, the abstract weaving of Leonore Tawney (Cotter).