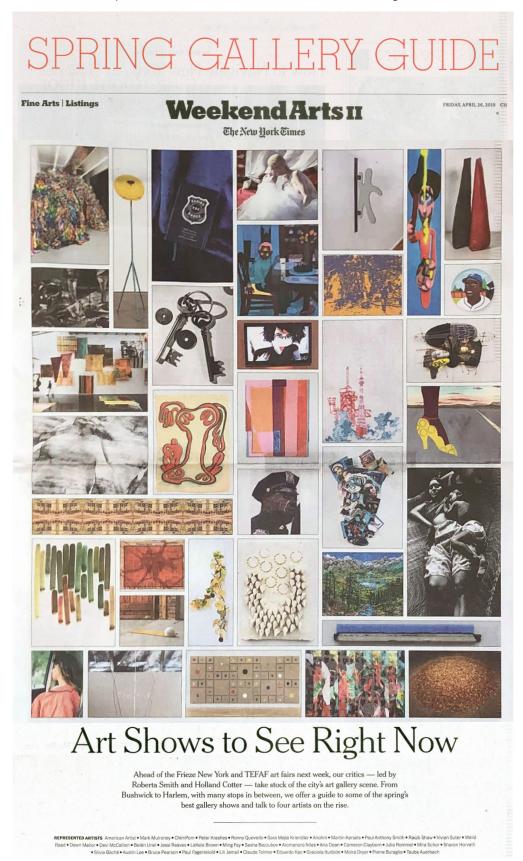
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Page C21



SPRING GALLERY GUIDE | WILL HEINRICH

SoHo Still Has Muscles to Flex



SOHO It's been decades since the great powers of the New York City art world decamped for Chelsea, but SoHo remains dotted with galleries of long standing like Ronald Feldman; numerous newer arrivals; small museums like the Drawing Center, the Donald Judd Foundation and the Center for Italian Modern Art; and the magisterial Dia Art Foundation, with its permanent installations of Walter De Maria's "Earth Room" and "The Broken Kilometer." Here are five of the most notable gallery shows up right now or opening soon.

4. PETER FREEMAN INC., 'SILVIA BÄCHLI AND ERIC HATTAN: BETWEEN WINDOWS'

The Swiss artists Silvia Bächli and Eric Hattan undertake a sublime exegesis of that simplest of artistic gestures: the line. A line is an emblem of sustained effort, but also a paradox. Whether as the confident green and brown stripes of Ms. Bächli's elegant gouaches or the wonky metal poles that Mr. Hattan stands upright and sets in concrete, the line only gets richer in isolation. Mr. Hattan's "Schnurvideo (String Video)" is a 20-minute close-up on the artist's hands as he untangles a clump of string and winds it up again into a grapefruit-size ball. Notice how tightly he holds it, and how, when the string slips off, he simply presses an errant loop against the ball and keeps winding. Through May 25 at 140 Grand Street; 212-966-5154, peterfreemaninc.com.

