

# The New York Times

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By VIVIEN RAYNOR

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Carmen Cicero and Irving Kriesberg (Graham Modern Gallery, 1014 Madison Avenue, at 78th Street): This is a well-matched pair. Carmen Cicero, as usual, comes on as a clown with a retinue of men and women who are either lost in thought or else are kicking up their heels, literally. Some wear hats, some smoke and some do both — not that it matters much, for the impact of these large watercolors comes more from their shapes and colors than from their content, which, to say the least, is open to interpretation. For instance, the woman who seemingly lies among sand dunes, her breasts black spirals against brown: emanating from the cigarette clamped between her scarlet lips is an all-but-mushroom cloud of blue and green. But to judge from her expression, it could be an opium dream. The artist wears an equally satisfied but more jubilant expression in the caricature of himself seated on a deck with a twilight drink and wearing eyeglasses that are the same green as the stripes on his purple shirt and the streaks in his hair. It is an elaborately patterned image and one of the most finished in the show, but it doesn't compare with the studies of flowers, especially the marigold that stands in a crooked glass vase against an urban skyline and under an indigo sky. No joke here — just perfect placing and beautiful color.