

SG

## HOUSTON★CHRONICLE

'SALT PEANUTS' STRIKES IDIOSYNCRATIC CORD



Named after the Dizzy Gillespie bebop masterpiece, Salt Peanuts at Inman Gallery brings together six artists for a group exhibition that aims not to illustrate a theme but embody a mood -- that of "rhythmic idiosyncrasy," according to owner Kerry Inman and director Patrick Reynolds, who curated the show together. They succeed through smart use of sight lines, juxtaposing artists with few obvious commonalities whose work nevertheless sits comfortably together -- at times playing off one another, in other cases balancing each other out. Making this work takes a certain knack -- like the ability to throw a party where the guests don't know each other, but they all hit it off. Julia Kunin's glazed porcelain sculptures anchor the main gallery, ripe with the kinds of tension that make the show interesting. Each is a vertical diptych in which one piece sits somewhat uneasily atop the other. Inspired by the fantastical forms of scholars' rocks and garden grottos, Kunin builds her sculptures from cast plants, insects and sea creatures to create mysterious structures that conjure up mysterious, conflicting associations. Looking at Cascade, I found myself thinking first of coral formations, then of yogurt-covered pretzels ... and then of the fact that the sculpture looks like a dog may have peed on it. That comingling of tastiness and ickiness is one of many internal contradictions that keeps you looking at Kunin's work long after you meant to turn away.

Britt, Douglas. "Salt Peanuts' Strikes Idiosyncratic Cord." *Houston Chronicle*, April 8, 2009.

**SANDRA GERING INC**

14 EAST 63RD STREET NEW YORK NY 10065  
TEL 646-336-7183 SANDRAGERINGINC.COM

