

# Weekend

The New York Times

FRIDAY, JANUARY 21, 2000

ART REVIEW

## Surging Into Chelsea

### Sarah Charlesworth

Meditative calm prevails in photographs by Sarah Charlesworth at Gorney Bravin & Lee. From a few feet away they appear to be fields of unbroken white. Up close, subliminal forms emerge: a cup, a skull, a seated Buddha.

Ms. Charlesworth, whose career began in the 1970's, used the same religious images in an earlier color series titled "Objects of Desire," where they were cut up and collaged, along with clips from pornography, art history and fashion. In the current pictures she has left such manipulation behind. She has treated her "images of transcendence" as studio still lifes, photographing white-painted objects against a white ground. By themselves the results are almost too pretty; but placed in the context of Ms. Charlesworth's rigorously searching output, they gain texture and resonance.