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Anthony Haden-Guest's **NEW YORK**



Treasured memories

Sheila Gallagher, whose second solo show, "Ravishing Far/Near," is up at Dodge Gallery (until 22 December), entered the art world like Alice tumbling down a rabbit hole.

When I first met her, she was running the late Fred Hughes' cultural imperium at 1342 Lexington Avenue, sometime home of Andy Warhol's mother. "I was just out of college, she says. "It was a crazy time. There was in-fighting between Fred and (Andy Warhol Museum Administrator) Arch Gillies.

Fred and the Dia Foundation were setting up the Warhol Museum in Pittsburgh. I loved Fred but he was very difficult. I was there between 1990 and 1993 and in that time he fired 43 assistants. Every drawer was a treasure trove. One day I opened a drawer and saw materials for one of Warhol's Electric Chair works. Another had a beautiful carved ivory piece of erotica in it, I thought: "Ugh, I cannot take looking at one more treasure'. So I went to graduate school in Boston."

The works at Dodge are hung like paintings but neither paint nor pencil have been used. Three pieces, including a fine cow, have been made with smoke on canvas. Another work is a glimmering halo made from gold-leafed cigarette butts. One of Gallagher's videos, *Rasa*, 2013, is accompanied by a soundtrack using steamy audio from movies such as "Blue Velvet", Sheila Gallagher has, I think, escaped the Curse of the Assistant



**Sheila Gallagher at work
in her studio**