

APRIL 7, 2008

GALLERIES-CHELSEA

PAUL GARDÈRE

Colorfully carved and painted frames, voodoo motifs, Haitian postage stamps, black-and-white photographs, and stock reports clipped from newspapers serve as visual constellations in Gardère's "Multiple Narratives." The enlarged reproductions of Ingres portrait studies at the center of these collage-paintings reflect how the French bourgeoisic served as a model for aspiring nineteenth-century Haitians—despite the fact that Haiti gained independence from France in 1804. While there is no singular narrative here, underpinning the show are enduring themes of colonialism and cross-cultural hybridization. Through April 12. (Skoto, 529 W. 20th St. 212-352-8058.)