

## At the Galleries: Summer respite



Swing Stage artist Lyla Rye.

Courtesy of the Koffler Centre of the Arts

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**By Leah Sandals**

Morrow Avenue is far from the beach, but it still offers a summer respite — one of the cultural kind. Here's what to see after brunch at Belljar.

### **1. Lyla Rye at Koffler Gallery Off-Site at Olga Korper Gallery**

*17 Morrow Ave., to Aug. 20*

Lyla Rye's *Swing Stage* is a must see — make that a must swing? — of the summer. Its webs of steel chains suspend a large, glossy black platform a few inches off the floor of Olga Korper Gallery. Slip off your shoes, step onto the platform and you'll experience something akin to a bouncy-castle version of conceptual art as the chains sway your strides in unexpected ways. Wall texts outline Rye's aim: namely, to call attention to the gallery space itself, which was once an industrial foundry. To underline this point, Rye has arranged the chains to mirror the building's roof struts, and she's provided a catalogue of the old factory's wares, as well as a video projection of the locale past and present. (The projector wasn't working when I visited, but I didn't feel the lack of it — the material force of the structure is the main draw here.) Overall, Rye's mix of context and content reminded me of how we're forever treading on the past — if not on the shoulders of giants, then on the tiptoes of regular ol' working stiffs like the hundreds of folks who produced electroplating supplies, generator sets and walrus hides (!) on this very site just 100 years ago. We might use the same space they did, Rye's magnum opus suggests, but we're forever at least a few unstable inches removed from their reality.