

INDEPENDENT

CULTURE & ARTS

Wonderful Find

A wonderful find almost lost in one of the rear galleries are two small drawings done in oil and pencil by Melissa Stern. The drawings are almost lost, since the room features several pieces of her fanciful sculpture. *Birthday Girl* depicts a rather crudely-drawn female figure in a ballet dress with a green cone on her head. In the background behind the figure is a sophisticated geometric abstraction, on a gray field which could be a blackboard covered with chalk dust. The inscribed drawing of the tutu enhances the graphic quality. As one enters the Benson Gallery to the left of the desk are more examples of Stern's sculpture and in fired clay is the same *Birthday Girl*, this time with a dark gray plastic cone on her head and standing in a childlike attitude, one foot on top of the other.