

Through the Looking Glass

A fresh look at New York City art galleries

By Danny Larkin, FCLC '07

Contributing Writer

Through the Looking Glass

"Charles Mutton: Within These Walls"

Forum Gallery

745 5th Avenue. (just south of 58th Street.), 5th floor

Revolving new work on display indefinitely,
Tuesday-Saturday 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m.

Charles Mutton's mixed media boxes satisfy those unattainable childhood diorama that remain unquenched in adulthood. A complex system of mirrors and angles make these interiors expand indefinitely. One begins to feel like Alice when peering into the old world landscapes of this Parisian Art World veteran. "Library: Homage to Marcel Proust" honors Marcel Proust with a play on definitions. The central element of this second edition of 4 is the mirror above the mantle which reveals the area where the viewer would stand. Yet, the viewer is not reflected; the mirror shows only the mantelpieces and the two-row library which extends to optical infinity. The symbolism, to Proust's probable elation, remains as esoteric as his own literary creations. Skip the rabbit hole and go through these looking glasses to wonderland.

Special Note: In addition to the ongoing display of Mutton's work at the Forum Gallery, there will be a special exhibition of his work at the Forum Gallery Section of the International Art and Design Fair, Sept. 25-30 at the Seventh Regiment Armory located on Park Ave. at 67th St.

Anime Computer Chips

"Greg Bogin: New Paintings"

Mary Boone Gallery

[Uncovering the CIA](#)

[It Sucks To Be... Over 21?](#)

[Papparazzi Ethics 101](#)

[A Restaurant Critique: Fordham's Fine Fare](#)

[You've Got a Friend\(ster\) in Me](#)

[A Night with Indie Performer Kyler](#)

[A New Tale of Star-Crossed Love](#)

['The Mole People': The City Beneath the Streets](#)

[The Essential Fall MUSIC Preview](#)

[Pecked Apart by a Thousand Pigeons](#)

[Preview for New Fall Television Season](#)

[Witches, Plants, and Aussies... Oh My!](#)

745 5th Avenue. (just south of 58th Street.), 4th floor

Shows until Oct. 11, Tuesday-Friday 10 a.m.-6 p.m.
and Saturday 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Hit this gallery for a burst of Japanese animation minimalism. Greg Bogin's canvases with tightly organized round fluorescent splotches seem most like an amalgam between the eyes of "Sailor Moon" and the circuits of a motherboard. Surprisingly, abstraction can still be cool.

Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon

"Scholars and Scrolls: Chinese paintings, calligraphy, scholar objects, and furniture"

China 2000 Fine Art Gallery

5 East 57th Street. (just east of 5th Avenue), 9th floor

Shows until Oct. 11, Monday-Saturday 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

This impressive survey of authentic Chinese art, furniture and other objects is like a free plane ride to the Forbidden City. The show's real strength is that it presents Chinese furniture within its context of Chinese art, and vice versa. Unlike other current design shows in Manhattan, this gallery presents a broad spectrum of decorative and fine arts in a fashion that doesn't feel like a cheap furniture department.

The Jungle Book lives on

"High Stakes and Still Life: Recent paintings from Linda Besse, Trisha Hardwork and Elsabe Valcke.

Holland and Holland Gallery

50 East 57th Street. (between Madison and Park Ave.), 4th floor

Shows until Oct. 21, Monday-Friday 10 a.m.-6:30 p.m. and Sat 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

On the top floor of this London-esque boutique sits a series of images straight out of Rudyard Kipling. In addition to the flower close ups and fruit still-lives, are the playful animal images of Linda Besse. These sharp, contrast-rich, and overall crisp images seemed destined for some Upper East Side interior with a hip

yet sophisticated "British nursery" theme.

The Manhattan African Trader

"New Acquisitions"

Pace Primitive Gallery

32 East 57th Street. (just east of Madison Ave.), 7th floor

New acquisitions on display until later this fall, Tuesday-Friday 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m. and Saturday 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Against a rich red painted backdrop lies an impressive array of tribal art. While African art remains the gallery's perennial trump card, their Oceanic and Himalayan rooms are beginning to burst with the same strong energy. Thoughtful curation sets this gallery apart from its counterparts - These are not random imports from the Nairobi Goodwill.

What George W. Bush Doesn't Want You to See

"Rineke Dinkstra"

Marian Goodman Gallery

24 West 57th Street. (just west of 5th Avenue), 4th floor

Shows until October 11, Monday-Saturday 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

In this exhibition, Dinkstra explores the psychic consequences of military training. The groups of images, which each focus on a particular individual, document the slow transformation from citizen to soldier. Slight changes in the lips and overall face became symptomatic of the changes beneath the surface. The eyes truly became the window of the soul, or lack there of.

The Indy Cartoon Petting Zoo

"Transogenic by Joshua Levine"

Luxe Gallery

24 West 57th Street. (just west of 5th Avenue.)

Shows until Oct. 11, Tuesday-Saturday 11 a.m.-6

p.m.

This show is like the three-dimensional version of a Dr. Seuss book. Pink, Orange and Yellow alien-like octopi cram the bright blue walls and green floor of the small Luxe gallery. Joshua Levine speaks to a host of genetic issues with these creatures that not only can be imagined with art, but realized with science. Levine transforms conceptual art from a depressant into LSD.

Andy Warhol and Hyper Realistic Mannequins

"Duane Hanson: Selected Works 1984-1995"

Ongoing Sales of Modern Masters

O'Hara Gallery

41 East 57th Street. (just east of Madison Avenue.),
13th floor

Shows until later this fall, Tuesday-Friday
10a.m.-5:30 p.m.

In addition to the continuing sales of the masters of the twentieth century like Andy Warhol, the O'Hara gallery assembled for this fall is a remarkable set of sculptures. Duane Hanson's sculptures are so realistic that out of the corner the eye, they appear to be reality. His complex technique involves large amounts of plastic, life-casting over several days, and an eerie attention to detail. Hanson transfers hyper realism from camera to sculpture.

Picasso/Matisse on a Dime

"Pablo Picasso Prints from the Marina Picasso Collection"

Ongoing Sales of Modern Masters

Jan Kruger Gallery

41 East 57th Street. (just east of Madison Avenue.),
6th floor

Shows until later this fall, Tuesday-Saturday 10
a.m.-5:30 p.m.

The artists of this gallery need no introduction. Scratch the Subway out to MOMA in Queens and hit this free reliquary of modern art masters.