



Best in Show

The Pagan Razor

Recommendations by R.C. Baker

by **R.C. Baker**

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Peter Schuyff

This Dutch artist's simple device of painting button-shaped, trompe l'oeil frames over figures in thrift-store canvases yields some surprisingly sharp results. An able knockoff (signed QUAK) of a Boucher nude, belly-flopped onto a sofa, has been overlaid with a grid of grommet-like discs depicted so realistically that they read like a 3-D scrim. Often painted around the eyes of portraits (clowns, dogs, a copy of Vermeer's *Girl With a Pearl Earring*), these circular shapes can feel as goofy as Elton John's specs or as sinister as a gas mask. Schuyff heightens the drama latent in Sunday painting, excavating that heartfelt desire to go beyond snapshots and create "art." In a different vein, the artist paints interlaced rectangles of black and white gouache over found landscape and life drawings, injecting bebop-ish verve into academic grayness. *Nicole Klagsbrun, 526 W 26th, 212-243-3335. Through October 13.*