

Arts

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ART REVIEW

Making an Entrance at Any Age

By ROBERTA SMITH

A current sampling of the many solo debuts on view demonstrates that the ages of "new" artists can vary as much as their styles, mediums or points of origin.



André Ethier

The German Expressionists and the Fauves, updated with horror movies and comics, inspire the efforts of André Ethier, a young Toronto artist who is making his debut in Derek Eller's project space.

In small, intensely colored, vigorously worked paintings, grotesque heads float above landscapes or sit on shoulders cloaked in bright tweed. Genders are routinely mixed, and noses often go missing. Revised motifs include a scarecrow, Judith and Holofernes, and Goya's lurching Saturn, shown here interacting with a stripper rather than devouring his young.

When you get to the show's one landscape, with its blood-red cave, it is something of a relief from the figural ghoulishness. These are modern fairy tales in which happy endings tend not to count, painted with consummate ease; their intimate scale works in their favor. For the record, Mr. Ethier's gallery in Toronto is Greener Pastures, newly established by Kineko Ivic, a former artist who made his solo debut at the Andrew Kreps Gallery in Chelsea in 2002.



Derek Eller Gallery

"Untitled," by André Ethier.

*EXCERPT, p. E37