

Best in Show

**Recommendations
by Robert Shuster****Dominic McGill: 'FuturePerfect'**

Derek Eller Gallery
615 West 27th Street
212-206-6411
Through May 15

Mr. Mindscape

Imagine a deluge of sociopolitical news and opinion funneled into the draftsman's obsession known as horror vacui, and you'll come close to the dense, frenetic visions of Dominic McGill. On various themes—economic collapse, war, bigotry—the Brooklyn-based British ex-pat creates kaleidoscopically dazzling, impossible-to-follow flow charts of recent history. Cartoons, symbols, and images snipped from *Life* and *National Geographic* float like flotsam in seas of spiraling quotes taken from thinkers on the left and right.

In *The Splitting of Reality in Two Parts Is a Considerable Event*—a wild look at capitalism and religion—the writings of Guy Debord, Max Weber, and the Zoroastrians (to name a few) swarm around a zigzagging collage of photographic images descending into a Dante-esque Hell. There's even more chaos in *Not a Plan Has Gone Astray*, a raging sea of rants and sketches that captures the paranoia in Leon Festinger's *When Prophecy Fails*, his classic 1956 study of a doomsday cult enthralled by UFOs.

Originally a sculptor, McGill sometimes takes his drawings into three dimensions. Inside a vitrine, like a medical oddity, a blobby construction of aqua-resin—three deflated orbs connected by bloated intestines—bears a multitude of phrases and figures that refer to Louis Althusser's three-sphere model of society. And in the back room, on a panel curved to form an enclosure (riffing on Plato's Allegory of the Cave), the artist has drawn a crazy mindscape of the Middle East, filled with symbols, caricatures, and those overwhelming masses of text, everything from Kant to Francis Fukuyama. This is highbrow, high-energy art, rendered with a doodler's caprice.

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