



David Ebony's Top 10 New York Gallery Shows for July

David Ebony, Wednesday, July 22, 2015

7. Roger Brown at DC Moore, through July 31, and at Maccarone, through August 7. In the decade or so before his death of an AIDS-related illness in 1997, Chicago artist Roger Brown produced a group of satirical and acerbic political-themed works, which are the focus of an extraordinary show at DC Moore.

"Political Paintings" includes works such as *Gulf War* (1991), a large canvas featuring highly stylized portraits of George H.W. Bush and Saddam Hussein surrounded by military choppers. The similarly grotesque look and posture of the leaders constitute a wry comment on the war machine. The self-explanatory *Landscape with Dollar Sign*, of the same year, is a scathing indictment of wartime economics.

Concurrently, Maccarone presents "Roger Brown: Virtual Still Life," a group of the artist's late works. Created in 1995 and '96, these esoteric and rarely shown pieces incorporate actual objects—such as found ceramics and toy furniture. Arranged in neat rows on narrow shelves attached to the bottom of framed canvases, the objects complement the paintings, which typically feature a rather fanciful, dreamlike landscape. Melding painterly illusion and tangible reality, these works show Brown pushing the boundaries of his art right up to his last days.

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