

OCTOBER 2, 2006

ALEXI WORTH

Witty, well-made paintings that flout the direct approach. "Lenscap" foregrounds-literally, forcefully, funnily-what would be an error in a photograph, an accidental exposure as the lens cap is being drawn away from the camera. The Titianesque foliage of an oak tree is visible beyond stumpy bits of fingers, but we'll never know for sure what the big black circle of painted plastic eclipses. A pair of paintings depict a woman lost in thought and distracted by a magazine; in each, her face is largely obscured by a man's shadow. Bald men tip their heads onto women's bare shoulders, forming almost indecipherable flesh-tone compositions. We're blocked from seeing or interpreting at every turn, but the effect is engaging rather than frustrating. Worth's smoothly painted warped shapes—bulbous foreheads, stretched-out torsos add a cartoonish, Currin-ish note of further jokiness. Through Oct. 7. (Moore, 724 Fifth Ave., at 57th St. 212-247-2111.)