

THE NEW YORKER

AUGUST I, 2011

GALLERIES—CHELSEA

"PRETTY ON THE INSIDE"

Seven raucous artists, including Peter Saul and the stalwart Hairy-Who Chicagoan Karl Wirsum, brazen what begs to be called A.P.S., for Atrocious (in a good way) Pop Surrealism. Items: Todd James's posterish gouaches of masked black guerrilla gunmen and perky blond nudes, Erik Parker's brassband still-lifes of nonexistent flowers and utensils, and Tony Matelli's sculptural heads formed of raw meat, in sickeningly veristic painted bronze. Strikingly, the once regional outlier Wirsum, with his familiar pinball-cartoonish painted critters, suddenly seems a seminal Old Master. Chicago also rises. Through Aug. 19. (Kasmin, 293 Tenth Ave., at 27th St. 212-563-4474.)