NEW YORKER

ART GALLERIES-DOWNTOWN

"Mother's House"

The postmodern home that the architect Robert Venturi built for his mother in Philadelphia, between 1962 and 1964, provides the name for this nine-artist group show. The thread connecting the assembled works is a pattern that appears here on pillows and crockery, which Venturi designed with his frequent collaborator, the less well-known Denise Scott Brown (who was also his wife). The show's high point is an elliptical call-and-response about gender between the New York architect and sculptor Michelle Rosenberg and the young painter Nikki Katsikas. Rosenberg's grid of found broom heads in bright artificial colors neatly subverts half a dozen art-historical genres, while also providing bristles for her more delicate but equally subversive wooden brush sculptures; Katsikas's small oil painting "Domestic Politics" shows an exuberant Hillary Clinton sitting comfortably at home in Chappaqua, as a pajamasclad Bill cooks them breakfast. Landing a topical zinger is the gallerist R. J. Supa's contribution, "Nighty Knight," an issue of Artforum affixed with a business card inscribed "all the best" by that magazine's former publisher, Knight Landesman, who has been accused of sexual harassment.

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Yours Mine & Ours 54 Eldridge St. Downtown

646-912-9970

Website







