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“5 Must-See Gallery Shows in New York: Darren Bader, Hannah van Bart, and More”

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Michael Bauer at Lisa Cooley Gallery, through June 22 Bauer is a German artist living in New York, and he wears his native country's influences on his sleeve (the ghost of Martin Kippenberger floats fairly close by). Pondering the large-scale paintings here, an odd assortment of other artists also came to mind — among them Sue Williams, Trenton Doyle Hancock, and Kati Heck. The compositions are jam-packed and chaotic — distended hands, squiggling passages of abstraction, the occasional sandwich or hot dog, text touting a Beer of the Month Club — with the action clustering toward the center of the canvas, as if all this visual information is being sucked into a black hole. This colorful expansiveness is off-set by a series of looser, rawer silkscreens depicting what appears to be a struggle between Baba Yaga and Pete Seeger. As for the title of the show, “Creme Wars — Snoopie,” press materials explain that it's “a combination of words which Bauer thought sounded funny, combined with Snoopie, the name of a skinhead who once beat the artist up in his younger days.” But of course.