

MIER

'B-OUT'

The New York Times

By Holland Cotter

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Andrew Edlin Gallery

134 10th Avenue, between 18th and 19th Streets, Chelsea

Through Aug. 18

Scott Hug's a good artist who knows, or knows of, many other good artists. And he's pulled just over a hundred of them together for this jigsaw puzzle of a summer group show about being outside the social norm and loving it. Give a quick look around and you'll spot tributes to all sorts of dare-to-be-different heroes: Elizabeth Taylor in a tough-talking Kathe Burkhart portrait; Nina Simone, as enshrined in a rec-room altarpiece by Chris Bogia; and — a twofor — Emily Dickinson and Francis of Assisi chastely conjoined in one of Thomas Lanigan-Schmidt's minutely majestic assemblages.

Carrie Moyer and Sheila Pepe, partners in art as in life, paper a wall with the likenesses of dozens of radical women who appear on yet-to-be-issued postage stamps commemorating Women's History Month. In a painting by Celeste Dupuy-Spencer, guys wear Sandra Bernhard and Dolly Parton badges. And Barton Lidice Benes, who died in May, contributes a homage (or something) to Larry Craig, the former Idaho senator who in 2007 took some heat for playing footsie with the wrong guy in an airport bathroom. A hero? Probably to somebody out there.

But you get the drift. And if you visit, you'll get more good things, among which let me tag drawings by Cody Critchloe, Micki Pellerano and Lorenzo De Los Angeles; a very funny outtake from John Fireman's film on the performer Jack Ferver; a ship chandelier by Yeni Mao; and an entire tiny room devoted to photocollages and other concoctions by the great beyond-out-and-born-that-way May Wilson (1905-1986).

So have fun. (You will.) And stay late next Thursday, when the writer Cynthia Carr will read from her new biography of David Wojnarowicz, yet another artist on Mr. Hug's admirable and endless A list.