



November 20th, 2007

Best in Show

Philip Guston, Jasper Johns, and Butch Hancock

Recommendations by R.C. Baker
by **R.C. Baker**

Butch Hancock

A popcorn kernel as a mushroom cloud; a dog leaping with the manic grace of a Tex Avery cartoon; a flying concrete buttress stud-ded with beer cans—and those are just the photographs. It's Hancock's ballpoint-pen drawings of labial, biomorphic architecture that really get weird: Pulp sci-fi covers meet Gaudí's Barcelona cathedral. This Texas troubadour (his band, the Flatlanders, has performed on *Letterman*) combines a keen eye for contrasting textures—that fluid dog against pointy fence slats—with rock-solid composition: A ladder's shadow beautifully reprises the angles of the building it's cast on. If, at first, this insightfully curated show seems a tad schizophrenic, give it time—you'll soon experience a meeting of the minds. *Cue, 511 W 25th, 212-206-3583. Through December 1.*