

Million-Dollar Still Lives by Pop Artists: Uptown Art

By Lili Rosboch - Apr 20, 2013



The Estate of Tom Wesselmann/Jeffrey Sturges/VAGA via Bloomberg
“Red Belt” (1982) by Tom Wesselmann. The work is on view at Acquavella Galleries in a show focusing on pop artists’ interest in the still life.



“Black Flowers” by Roy Lichtenstein. The oil on canvas from 1961 is part of the show “The Pop Object: The Still Life Tradition in Pop Art,” at Acquavella Galleries through May 24. Source: The Eli and Edythe L. Broad Collection, Los Angeles/Estate of Roy Lichtenstein via Bloomberg

Roy Lichtenstein paints flowers and sculpts ceramic tea cups. Tom Wesselmann does close-ups of red lips and belts. Vija Celmins makes hyper-real pencils and erasers.

Pop artists’ interest in the still life is the focus of Acquavella Galleries (0710349D)’ latest show, “The Pop Object: The Still Life Tradition in Pop Art.”

Princeton University’s John Wilmerding curated the 75 works by major figures including Andy Warhol, Jasper Johns, Jeff Koons and Claes Oldenburg. They’re organized along the themes of food and drink, clothing and housewares, the body, and the garden.

With pieces on loan from major museums, only some of the works are for sale. Prices are \$100,000 to several million dollars.

Through May 24 at 18 E. 79th St.; +1-212-734-6300; <http://www.acquavellagalleries.com>. Have lunch at Jean George’s restaurant inside the Mark Hotel (25 E. 77th St.; <http://www.themarkrestaurantnyc.com>). Here are some more gallery stops along Madison Avenue.

Barbara Mathes Gallery: “California Dreaming” presents 16 works by postwar Los Angeles-based artists such as John McLaughlin and Judy Chicago, whose famous optical shapes are on view in the show. Prices are \$10,000 to \$295,000. Through April 27 at 22 E. 80th St.; +1-212-570-4190; <http://www.barbaramathesgallery.com>.