

# KANTOR / FEUER GALLERY

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## Art | Listings

**Tim Lokiec, "Plateau Sigma"**

LFL Gallery, through Aug 1

(see Chelsea).

**P**seudo-outsiderness has been a trend in New York galleries this year. Now Tim Lokiec, a recent graduate of Columbia University's M.F.A. program, joins the pack of faux self-taught artists and artist collectives, such as the Royal Art Lodge and Dearraindrop. But unlike these feel-good groups, Lokiec is decidedly uncooperative and anticollaborative. As he explains in the scrawled, Xeroxed note distributed in lieu of a press release: "My mentally ill sister told me that if I ever copied her in any way...she would never forgive me." Instead, Lokiec set out to make works that look diametrically opposed to his sister's artistic creations.

It's not clear whether Lokiec's source material—or even his sister—actually exist (her output is nowhere on view). But it's hard to imagine work that conforms more closely to stereotypical expectations about art made by the mentally ill than the paintings and drawings on view here. *Sequined Headband*—a collection of portraits of wide-eyed girls drawn with black and blue ballpoint pens, then pasted together as a single, mural-size work—fills a wall with doodles reminiscent of those in the notebooks of angst-ridden teenage girls. *Pentel Marker Scatter Hallucinations*, one of a number of mushy-colored canvases, combines pot-inspired fecundity with cocaine-fueled paranoia; its chaotic mix contains a big blond cheerleader, a Band-Aid-dispensing brunet, smoldering cigarettes and several bad boys—including one from whose head has erupted a multicolored rainbow. These impossible-to-decipher works read like heartfelt pleas from a Bellevue patient in need of a 12-step program. Lokiec may or may not be putting us on, but his art has a genuine poignancy. It's too emotionally complex and conflicted to be easily dismissed as mere art-world strategizing.—*Barbara Pollack*

ART

Pollack, Barbara, "Tim Lokiec, 'Plateau Sigma'", *Time Out New York*, July 10, 2003, p. 56