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DONALD BAECHLER

Some of art's most enduring motifs are given a makeover in Baechler's new paintings. The equestrian portrait becomes a happy, dancing pony. Skulls, the mainstay of Old Master vanitas scare tactics, are repeated to look like Halloween- or pirate-themed wallpaper. Still-life flowers are isolated and blown up—or replaced entirely, in one painting, by a giant ice-cream cone. The most emblematic of art icons, the human figure, is given the royal treatment in a huge sculpture crafted out of plywood, chicken wire, plaster, and papier-mâché. Part cartoon, part idol or effigy, the work is a perfect demonstration of how all figurative sculpture carries shades of both the tragic and comic. Through Oct. 28. (Cheim & Read, 547 W. 25th St. 212-242-7727.)