

MATTHEW MARKS GALLERY

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SUELLEN ROCCA

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A lesser-known member of a lesser-known art movement—the bumptiously surrealistic Chicago Hairy Who of the nineteen-sixties—Rocca is a find. Her hyperactive paintings and drawings of pictographic glyphs, frolicking figures, cartooned common objects, and wordplay (a diptych from 1965 is titled “Bare Shouldered Beauty and the Pink Creature”) enlist formal ingenuity to ends of flagrant charm. Romantic excitement is a theme, or at least a beleaguering condition. Certain outlined figures prophesy Keith Haring, down to the radiating lines.