

# Petzel

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## THE NEW YORKER



### Dana Schutz

Schutz paints like a combination of fire department and fire. In her new show, entitled "Fight in an Elevator," big, blazing canvases—one nearly eighteen feet wide—evince heroic control of premeditated chaos. Cartoonish figures and fragments of figures (and cartoonish things and fragments of things) swarm and jostle with snatches of planar and amoebic abstraction. Call it Action Cubism, with echoes of Jazz Age illustration and W.P.A. murals. High-fructose color reigns: pink shaded with darker pink, yellow with gold, blue with aqua. Narratives, too, abound: violent (homicidal punks), erotic (burbling flesh), and winsome (pensive children). If this show leaves out anything about art and life, Schutz seems guaranteed to get to it next time. Through Oct. 24. (Petzel, 456 W. 18th St. 212-680-9467.)

Dana Schutz, one of the most exciting painters working in New York, opens her second show at the Petzel gallery, in Chelsea, on Sept. 10. It includes the riotous, eight-foot-tall canvas "Fight in an Elevator" (above).