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Art Gallery Shows to See in November

By Will Heinrich, Andrew Russeth and Jillian Steinhauer

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This week in Newly Reviewed, Will Heinrich covers Jared Buckhiester's uncanniness, a group show starring Nancy Shaver, Uman's new visual language and Machteld Rullens's riffs on cardboard.

CHELSEA

Jared Buckhiester

Through Dec. 13. David Kordansky, 520 West 20th Street; 212-390-0079, davidkordanskygallery.com.



Jared Buckhiester, "Father in His Drum Major Suit," 2024, stoneware and porcelain slip.
Credit: via Jared Buckhiester and David Kordansky Gallery; Photo by Dario Lasagni

You rarely see finesse like Jared Buckhiester's. From the pocket-size painting up front to the family photograph embedded in the gallery's back wall, his new exhibit amounts to an exacting, vulnerable, insightful, evasive, uncanny portrait of his own unconscious — and, in a way, of everyone's.

The painting, a 19-inch oil called "The Front of the House Painted From Memory," hangs on a screen that obstructs the gallery's entrance even as it beckons you inside, and it shows a pinkish, barn-like structure without windows set among autumnal trees. Trees, shadows, building and yellow turf all have the same gentle blur, as if seen through tears or with eyes shut. Behind them hang more paintings, along with drawings, watercolors and 11 spectacular stoneware and porcelain sculptures.

In these, Buckhiester treats the robust ambiguities of gender, identity, memory and desire with steely precision. They are chimeras whose boundaries never fall where you expect: Several are sliced across the middle so that one body — or two or three, if one figure sits on another's shoulders or is carrying a lamb — can be screwed atop a different pair of legs.

In "Father in His Drum Major Suit," a seated man with his legs pulled in fuses into a single ovoid shape that resembles an egg or a fistful of clay even as it gracefully captures the curve of a hunched back. His stiff hat, open at the top, is at once an indiscriminate orifice and an elegant vase. *WILL HEINRICH*