

New Spaces / New Faces

BY MICHAEL RUSH



CRG states a commitment to emerging and established artists from the U.S. and abroad, with special interest in giving first shows to newcomers. On view recently were paintings by Robert Feintuch (who fits somewhere between emerging and established) collectively titled *The Middle Ages*. Though his earlier canvases of objects (buckets, clocks) and body parts (arms, ears) have sent writers into reveries of signification, Feintuch's immediate strength is his drop-dead talent as a painter. Metaphors and ironic commentary may indeed abound in his paintings, but it's his photo-surrealist skill that is breathtaking. The centerpieces of *The Middle Ages* are two large canvases of knights suited in armor from head to toe and seen from the rear; one carries a bucket marked with the letters FIRE. Reportedly inspired by a medieval tapestry at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, these knights are the trapped antiheroes of dead machismo. And they're great to look at.

Left: Robert Feintuch—**Heirloom**, polymer emulsion on canvas, 84 x 50", 1995, courtesy of CRG Gallery, New York.