

New York

CRITICS' PICKS

Lucy McKenzie

METRO PICTURES

519 West 24th Street

September 10–October 08

In this show of drawings and works on paper, Glasgow-based Lucy McKenzie intermingles five different bodies of work united by their medium. Yielding at times odd and incongruent results, this maneuver nonetheless allows a peek into her versatile doings and inclinations, as she veers from newspaper illustrator to world traveler to avid Tintin fan. This mixing and matching works best in the main gallery space. Alluring acrylics—colorful, and of generous proportions—depict stylish and youthful yet comical characters who perambulate through public spaces such as museums, Metro stations and moonlit streets. These hang side by side with monochromatic, geometrical drawings (or rather rubbings) of concrete blocks, which bring to mind black and white photos of vibrant stained glass windows. Strongly evoking the illustrational style of Hergé, the Belgian creator of the Tintin cartoons, on the one hand, and Mondrian et al on the other, McKenzie seems to be on the hunt for old-world and European ghosts, which are somehow embedded in the architectural and illustrational spaces that her lanky characters wander through. From her location scouting to her actual rubbing of concrete slabs and stones, this immersion in surface and space takes on a latently visceral tone.



—Sari Care