

METRO PICTURES

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Art in Review

Lucy McKenzie

Metro Pictures

519 West 24th Street, Chelsea
Through tomorrow

Lucy McKenzie, a young artist from Glasgow, has garnered renown for mimicking outmoded Modernist styles with an oblique eye on the politics of representation. She has organized some sophisticated international art exhibitions and last year did one of ArtForum magazine's Top 10 lists — a sign in some circles of intellectual currency.

Ms. McKenzie's first solo exhibition in New York gives but a puzzling and tantalizing glimpse of what she is about. Cartoon images painted on large sheets of paper in the style of the Tintin comic books are most interesting. They are accompanied by neatly gridded, abstract charcoal drawings that look as if they might have been made by rubbing actual stone walls; they are also on very large sheets of paper.

On smaller sheets, Ms. McKenzie has drawn images resembling fashion illustrations of an elegant, red-haired young man in outdated British clothing who is identified as Tintin — a grown up version, evidently. The show also includes insipid pencil drawings from life of a young, partly nude woman, and perky but undistinguished illustrations that Ms. McKenzie has done for an alternative newspaper.

Some theoretically interesting program may underwrite Ms. McKenzie's scattershot enterprise, but the uninitiated viewer would be hard

pressed to discover what it is without some background reading. (The exhibition's title, "Smersh," taken from the acronym of a Soviet counterintelligence agency, is no help). Nevertheless, the show is intriguing enough to make you want to see more.

KEN JOHNSON