

"All the News  
That's Fit to Print"

# The New York Times

Late Edition

Today, partly sunny, isolated afternoon showers, high 79. Tonight, an early shower, then clearing, low 63. Tomorrow, mostly sunny, high 81. Weather map is on Page A16.

VOL. CLVII . . No. 54,396

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NEW YORK, FRIDAY, AUGUST 8, 2008

\$1.25

## WEEKEND Arts FINE ARTS LEISURE

### Scott King

The Trial Continues

*Bortolami Gallery  
510 West 25th Street, Chelsea  
Through Aug. 22*

The conceptualist-provocateur Scott King has been an art director for hip magazines and has designed album covers for the Pet Shop Boys and Morrissey. As an artist based in London, he has exhibited widely in Europe. This visually punchy, philosophically

nettlesome exhibition is his second New York solo.

One wall in the gallery presents a series of large, brightly colored, silkscreened posters in which block and italic letters spell messages like "Let's Riot!," "Hands up who wants to riot?," "I'll never riot!" and "Should we nearly have a riot?" On the wall across the room, large black letters painted on a fluorescent orange field spell out the slogan "Death to the New."

Painted on another wall is a grid of more than 100 large, black circular spots. The regularity of the grid breaks down at one end, as if some accident or sabotage had disrupted the system.

Finally, there are two white porcelain busts on pedestals, copies of portraits of Lenin and Marx. Lenin has eye shadow, lipstick and a feathered, rhinestone collar, and Marx has glam-rock-style face paint.

What all this means seems at once obvious and obscure. Mr. King is apparently mocking the all-too-common confusion of fashion and politics, and pointing out how superficial rebelliousness often masks a deeper conformity. Whether he harbors hopes for a more genuine kind of political agency or thinks cynicism is the only reasonable response to a world thoroughly corrupted by consumerism is hard to say. And that uncertainty is what makes his exhibition worth thinking about.

KEN JOHNSON