

# THE NEW YORKER

## Patrick Angus

Bortolami  
Jan 15 - Feb 27  
39 Walker Street  
Downtown

Can an artist be important without being much good? That's just one of the questions haunting a show by this realist painter, at the Bortolami gallery, which chronicles aspects of urban gay life in the late twentieth century. Born in Hollywood, in 1953, Angus perished from aids, in New York City, at the age of thirty-eight, and one mourns the artist he might have become. The drawings on view owe a great deal to David Hockney's loving early portraits of his friends and lovers, with one essential difference: Angus doesn't offer any particular insight into the inner lives of the men he depicts. His large paintings are more imaginative. Stillness is a hallmark of such canvases as "Hanky Panky," from 1990, inspired by the scene at the now defunct Gaiety Burlesque, a pornographic emporium with male dancers, in Times Square. A complementary exhibition titled "Lucky for Men," curated by David Rimanelli and situated in the gallery's intimate second-floor space, features works by the fascinating sculptor Kayode Ojo, the painter Borna Sammak, and the photographer Chivas Clem. There's great restraint and delicacy in Rimanelli's installation—the volume may be on low, but the poetry and music resonate.

- Hilton Als