

# rachel uffner

## BOOKFORUM

### Artful Volumes

The season's outstanding art books

**BOOKFORUM CONTRIBUTORS**



Hilary Pecis, *Kaba on a Chair*, 2019, acrylic on canvas, 30 x 24". © Hilary Pecis/Courtesy the artist and Rachel Uffner Gallery

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It's a welcome choice when artists allot equal aesthetic attention to urban landscapes and efflorescent idylls. Hilary Pecis does just that, representing the beauty of car dealerships and cacti under the California sun. In a new survey of her work, HILARY PECIS (Gregory R. Miller/Rachel Uffner Gallery, \$50), she showcases patio plants and liquor-store signage, John Ashbery books and riotously floral tablecloths, glass carafes and chessboards, shucked oysters and tea lights. Pecis paints festive dinner parties mid-meal; wax drippings cascading down wine-bottles-turned-candleholders; a dog below a table of crudités and snacks; flowers in a wasabi-peas-can-cum-vase set atop a pedestal of stacked art books. Johanna Fateman characterizes these vistas and decors as "regionalist wildcards, which bridge or blur genres and highlight the iPhone camera's role as an aggregator of proclivities and a documenter of daily life." Pecis's own artistic heritage is equated with that of the Fauvists and Nabis; her visuals channel a West Coast–inflected Édouard Vuillard. "Color is blunt and wild in her work," writes Fateman. "The space is topsy-turvy, flattish but warped." In another essay, painter Lily Stockman describes the scenes Pecis focuses on as "*experienced*, not just viewed." Her vibe, Stockman scrupulously distinguishes, "is more Eve Babitz territory than Joan Didion." —S. M.

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