

THE NEW YORKER

GALLERIES—DOWNTOWN

Sara Deraedt

At first, the young Belgian artist's small pictures, taken through the windows of shops selling irons, air purifiers, and other household appliances, appear tentative. Give them time—two color photographs of vacuum cleaners disconnected from their hoses begin to suggest the cadaverous heads of an alien race, and a black-and-white photocopy of a metal tube leaning against a wall assumes a strange melancholy. Photographers have long been fascinated with industrial design, but their depictions are largely dispassionate, from the rigorous formalism of Albert Renger-Patzsch to the chilly criticality of Christopher Williams. Deraedt's sensibility is more akin to that of the German Pop painter Konrad Klapheck, in whose hands consumer goods turn uncanny. *Through Nov. 13. (Essex Street, 114 Eldridge St. 917-263-1001.)*