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Anne-Marie Schneider

To Be an Other

Tracy Williams

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You could describe the New York debut of the French artist Anne-Marie Schneider as a parable of growing up expressed in increasingly convincing works of art.

Childhood is evoked in several recent gouaches, in a competent if familiar Neo-Expressionist cartoon style that suggests eccentric fairytale illustrations. (Snow White and Pinocchio put in appearances.) A long, narrow painting depicts a shelf full of toys and dolls, which, it turns out, belong to the artist. The tensions and desires of adolescence and young adulthood erupt in "Marriage," a delirious short DVD (originally shot in Super-8) that layers together animation, staged scenes and music into a grainy, antic mixture. Finally, a happy ending is intimated in "Intoxication of Love," a series of 69 small graphite drawings made in 2005 that convey the pleasures of the flesh from various angles.

Saved from explicitness by an elastic and sometimes truncated sense of the human anatomy, Ms. Schneider's work conveys the urgency, tenderness, inventiveness and hilarity of coupling bodies in a way that is artful and real.

ROBERTA SMITH