

Damien Moppett and
Edith Dekyndt
ARTS & CULTURE
Features

Reviewed by Christopher Grayshaw

PICKLED SHARKS and stitched blank steak, threadbare sock monkeys and bagged, decaying trout. These and many other abject objects have been employed by well-known contemporary artists to shock conservative viewers who prefer tranquil landscape views or simple art of mindless affirmation.

Abject art is also a refuge for younger artists disturbed by the sudden proliferation of art works made with movie-scale budgets, works whose critical success depends on effects unavailable to those unable to pay for them.

International artists like Francis Alys (exhibited this summer at the Or Gallery and the Contemporary Art Gallery) and Mike Kelley (whose Craft Morphology Flow Chart is on display at the Vancouver Art Gallery) work with simple, cast-off materials, fashioning subtle art works from fragments.

Pop culture inspires abject works of art

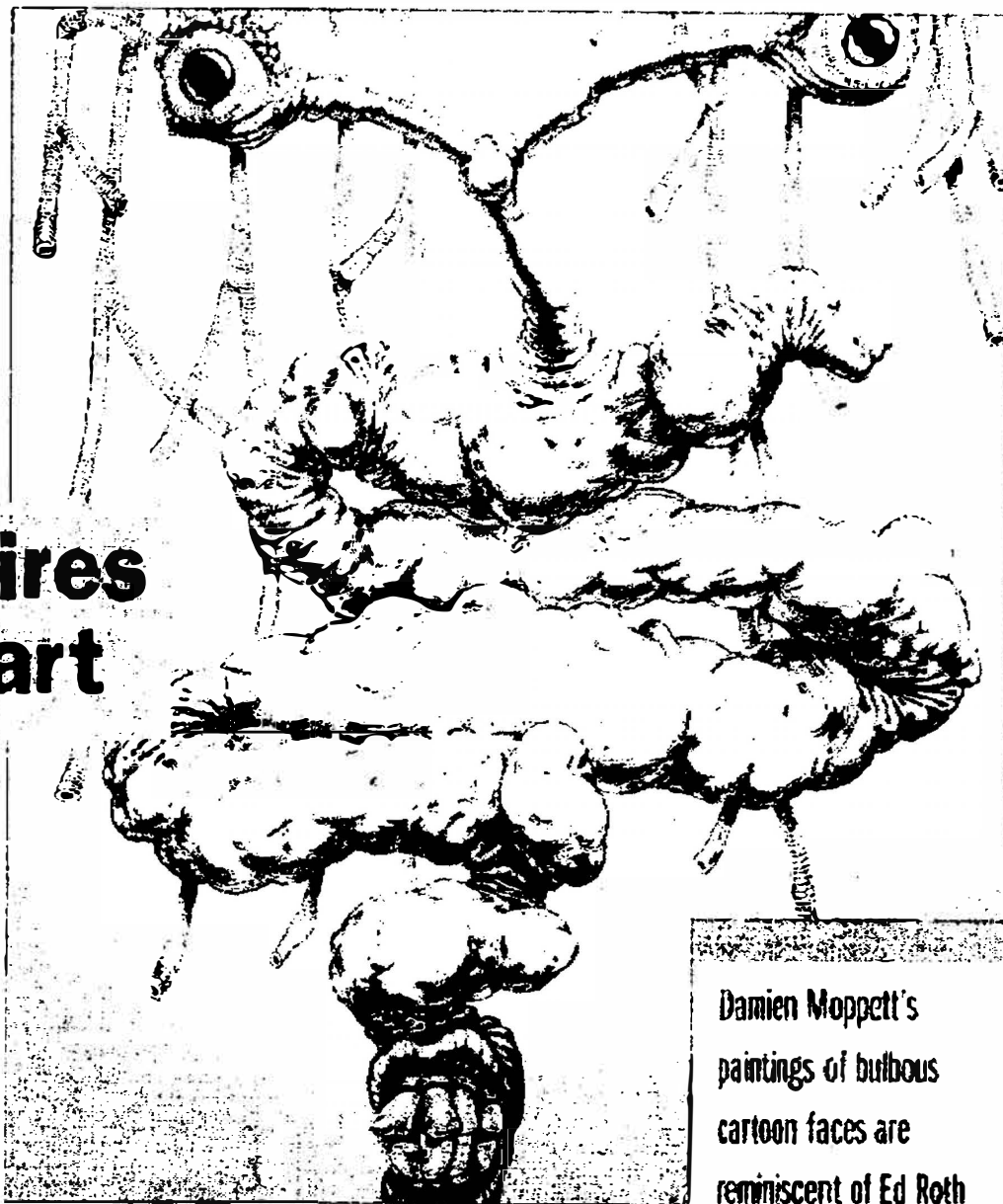
A two person exhibition of new work by Belgian artist Edith Dekyndt and Vancouver resident Damien Moppett showcases a rich variety of art work that emulates the subtle innovation of Alys' and Kelley's creations.

Moppett and Dekyndt use the human body's gestures and fluids to create works that are abject in the best sense of the word. They aren't immediately appealing or beautiful. But their difficulty is intriguing, prompting thought in ways that more decorative art can only dream of.

Moppett's work has been widely exhibited in Vancouver, most recently in 2005 at the Contemporary Art Gallery and 6: New Vancouver Modern at UBC's Belkin Gallery. Moppett makes satirical paintings and photographs that use popular imagery—high school doodles, biker art, science fiction and comic book art—to critique modern architecture and culture.

At the Or Gallery, Moppett has several large paintings of bulbous cartoon faces with rotting teeth and intestinal necks, reminiscent of the work of teen favourites ed "Big Daddy" Roth and *Mad* magazine's

See SIMPLE, page 23



Damien Moppett's paintings of bulbous cartoon faces are reminiscent of Ed Roth

P19.