

EAST BAY EXPRESS

OAKLAND, BERKELEY, AND EAST BAY NEWS, EVENTS, RESTAURANTS, MUSIC, & ARTS

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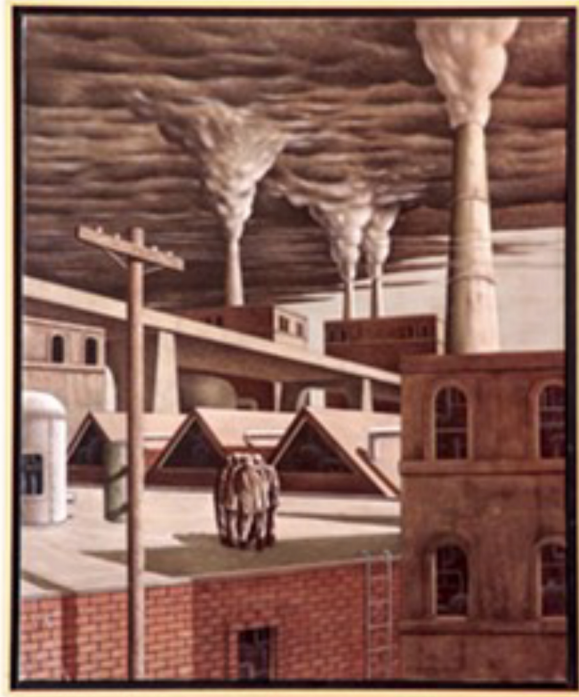


PHOTO BY DEWITT CHENG

Cityscape

Mac Mecham and Robin Bernstein

Fridays, Saturdays, 11 a.m.–5 p.m. and Thursdays, Fridays, 12–6 p.m.
Continues through July 20

Politics is back in art, bigly, these days (despite the bizarre mural censorship flap in San Francisco). Two artists who excel at infusing social commentary with aesthetic vision are Mac Mechem and Robin Bernstein. Mechem's deiciously satirical oil paintings and photocollages in *The Russian Connection* take aim at the insanities and inanities of the Trump regime. A blond manchild beams at Daddy Vlad; a drunken swell gropes a statue of blind Justice; a cardinal fondles nubile Teletubbies; moguls achieve their dream of universal dirty energy. Bernstein's powerful relief paintings of string and wax on wood in *Beauty and Terror* simulate Baroque commemorative decorations, but what deeds (read the handout) they celebrate! Hamburg's Police Battalion 101, a death squad composed of superannuated patriots; the 50,000 Jews of Isai, Romania, nearly exterminated in a pogrom; the "Yids of the city of Kiev," machine-gunned into a mass grave at Babi Yar. History isn't history.

— DeWitt Cheng

Transmission Gallery

770 West Grand Ave.

Oakland-West

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