

Art in America

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Slouching Toward Avenue D

BY WALTER ROBINSON AND CARLO McCORMICK



*Rick Prol: Smoke, 1983, oil on canvas,
66 by 52 inches.*

Rick Prol's cartoon expressionism, rendered with an emphatic outline and bright flat colors, is teenage in its existential hyperbole. Prol's expressionist everyman has everything: typically, he sits in a tattered suit on a toilet, corpse draped over his shoulders, a knife stuck in his neck, intestines spilling into his lap, wearing a crazed leer and a funny hat. Prol does not, as far as we can tell, consider this figure as parody.