

ARTnews

MAY 1985

PRESENT POP

B-Side

NEO-POP is a hybrid form, an alembic that has processed Surrealism, Cubism, Die Brücke, the comic book and, of course, old Pop. Often rendered with folk-art-style awkwardness and directness, it shows a fondness for sci-fi clichés (from the dinosaur to the flying saucer) and jaundiced views of present and future urban life. The five painters in this show—Pierre Cuvelier, Kristina Elander, Rick Prol, Bruce Wall and Rhonda Wall—temper their angst-ridden visions with a brash sense of humor.

Prol employs Day-Glo colors and heavy black outlines to depict trashed cities in which one-eyed, scarred and emaciated street people sell snails and human parts from pushcarts or pick disembodied limbs from garbage pails. He appends found objects to the borders of these works—a boarded-up window or a window-washer's pail and squeegee, for instance—as if to suggest concrete evidence of his painted contention that city life is a scrap heap.

—Ken Sofer
