

Art

The Excessive Eighties

Painters: At the End of a Decade. Sally Hawkins Gallery, 448 W. Broadway. (212) 477-5699. Through Nov. 25.

by Jon Nalley

Sharded edges of glass, unambiguous colors and a jarring image give power to Rick Prol's 1988 untitled work. His signature medium—a wood window frame with glass—in this case could easily have been my bathroom window when I lived on E. 12th between 1st and Avenue A. Economic violence and social dissonance of post-modern Reagan-era capitalism are captured under the harsh light of a bare lightbulb. Stabbed five times, the represented figure can be seen in terms of an individual living in today's America—a society bereft of couth or compassion that is literally ready to violate then spit out its own. In this painting exuding the spirit of *Threepenny Opera*, Prol gives expression to feelings of rage at the disintegration of our society on many levels.



RICK PROL
Untitled, oil on wood and glass

Photo: T.L. Litt