

ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT EVERYTHING THAT MATTERS

# THE WEEK

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## Where to buy ... *A selected exhibition in a private gallery*

### **Rick Prol** at *Maya Stendhal Gallery, New York*

The world can take its toll on a person. Job stress, money woes, relationship struggles—the pressure drives many to the brink of mental breakdown. Rick Prol's latest project explores what that brink might look like. "The Metamorphosis" is a series of haunting paintings that capture the desperation of a man enduring the destructive effects of substance abuse, general excess, and isolation. Prol has studied every trick in the expressionist playbook—as passed

down by his artistic forebears van Gogh, Kirchner, Munch, and Picasso—and uses them to remarkable advantage. In *Metamorphosis I*, for instance, the unharmonious color combination of sickly greens, yellows, reds, and browns creates an



*Metamorphosis I: Life can get messy.*

uncomfortable vibe, as do the skewed angles and the claustrophobic cropping that literally paints the figure into a corner. The jagged edges of the man's tattered clothing seem as sharp as the broken bottles that litter the ramshackle room. The artist spent 15 years perfecting this series, laboriously encrusting the linen canvases with layer upon layer of oil paint. Intentionally or not, Prol came up with the perfect metaphor for the way the residue of

life's stresses gradually weighs us down. Prices range from \$5,000 to \$60,000.

545 W. 20th St., (212) 366-1549  
[Mayastendhalgallery.com](http://Mayastendhalgallery.com)  
Through Oct. 31