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124 FORSYTH STREET
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THE NEW YORKER

GOINGS ON ABOUT TOWN: ART
BENJAMIN KRESS

The modestly sized paintings in this promising début portray figures shrouded in masks both literal and metaphorical. At first glance, “Linda on Bed” appears to depict the supermodel Linda Evangelista relaxing in the nude; in fact, it’s a self-portrait of the artist wearing a supermodel mask. The effect is at once creepy and enthralling. In a series of canvases whose titles include the word “shadow,” physical bodies seem to melt into ectoplasm. The spirit of Surrealism pervades, notably in a silvery bust of a sleeping figure recumbent on a bed of glass beads.

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