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THE NEW YORKER

GOINGS ON ABOUT TOWN

ART

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STEVE MUMFORD

From 2003 to 2008, Mumford was the art world's embedded correspondent in Iraq, painting watercolors of U.S. military personnel, which were posted online by the Web site artnet.com. They inevitably evoked Winslow Homer on the front lines of the Civil War, but Mumford's vivid reportage more than held its own. The large oil paintings in his current show fare less well; they look at once more sensationalistic and more academic. A scene of a dying patient in a military emergency room bathed in fluorescent light is a self-conscious update of "The Agnew Clinic," the nineteenth-century masterpiece by Thomas Eakins, another of whose works, "The Swimming Hole," is the obvious model for "Baqubah," in which nude and tattooed soldiers indulge in some R. & R. Through March 27. (Postmasters, 459 W. 19th St. 212-727-3323.)