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## Art in Review; Richard Kern, Lily van der Stokker

By KEN JOHNSON

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These two separate solo shows could be presented under a single title, "Innocence and Experience." While Richard Kern's erotically raw pictures of women border on pornography, Lily van der Stokker's wall paintings project a childlike sweetness.

Though they look as if they were taken by a roving voyeur, Mr. Kern's medium-size, snapshot-style color photographs are staged, using attractive young female models. Subjects include a view up a standing woman's short skirt; a fully dressed woman on a park bench exposing a breast as she bends to adjust a shoe; and a pregnant woman smoking on a back porch wearing nothing but bikini bottoms.

These photographs may strike some people as sexist and others as sexy. Either way they are uncommonly visceral instances of the so-called male gaze.

With their finely coordinated pastel colors, blobby shapes, cartoon flowers, doodle-like lines and cheery words, Ms. van der Stokker's works look like nursery murals. One, consisting mainly of a big amorphous pink shape with a three-dimensional set of painted steps attached where it meets the floor, has a speech bubble announcing, "I am an artwork and I am 3 years old." Another, titled "Old Kind of Good Advice (Happy Childhood)," praises "parents that give children goals that are achievable."

This may sound dopey, but the slyly quirky faux-innocence Ms. van der Stokker has been practicing for more than 10 years is still genuinely charming, both visually and poetically. KEN JOHNSON