



## THE NEW YORKER

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### DAVID BATES

The Texan artist has been arranging flowers lately: big, brawny blossoms that wreak amiable havoc with the delicate expectations of the still-life. The centerpiece here is a jagged, bronze sunflower of pro-basketball-player dimensions (the individual buds splay open eagerly, like hands expecting a pass). But even the smaller sculptures, paintings, and painted reliefs feel oversized and volatile. Bates's retro-modernist style has plenty of precedents, from Hartley to Beckmann (whose "Man with a Snake" may have inspired a sculpture here). But he invests them with an inflection of his own: a kind of jubilant heavy-handedness. Through Dec. 8. (DC Moore, 724 Fifth Ave., at 57th St. 247-2111.)