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\$1 beyond the greater New York metro

Richard Woods **'Renovation and Customization'**

Cristinrose Gallery
529 West 20th Street
Chelsea
Through Feb. 14

Richard Woods is a young British artist with an abrasive attitude but no focus. He paints peace signs and flower-power emblems on pieces of construction lumber, which he leaves in a pile on the floor. Another pile of wood scraps is decorated with death's-head stickers and pictures of bikini-clad girls.

On canvas, Mr. Woods spills puddles of enamel paint over fuzzy, photographically enlarged pictures of ordinary cars in the street or used-car ads from magazines. One 30-foot-long, five-panel piece is a near life-size picture of a flatbed lumber truck over which broad swaths of gloppy red paint have been smeared. He also presents a nondescript grid painting made on a bedroom carpet.

Mr. Woods wants to assert a grungy, antiauthoritarian energy. His exhibition's title, "Renovation and Customization," also suggests some conceptual interest in the aesthetics of everyday life. He plays Rauschenberg to Gary Hume's Johns, you might say. But Mr. Woods's various directions tend to cancel each other out and his project looks more confused and underdeveloped than stylistically or intellectually challenging.

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