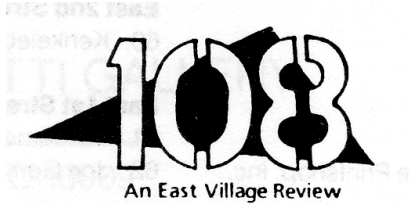


# EAST VILLAGE REVIEW

## JANUARY 2, 1987

### DIKE BLAIR

By Sally Miller



#### **DIKE BLAIR**

##### **Cash/Newhouse**

170 Avenue B

January 9 – February 1

This exhibition focuses on the combined use of geometry, decoration and landscape. In these extreme vertical objects, geometric shapes play with recognizable painted landscapes, signs, patterned fabric and three-dimensional forms in such a way that we are forced to evaluate the traditional uses of these components. In "Plus (+) Yucca," the landscape is both physical and illusionistic. Rising out of shiny black lacquered surfaces appear amorphous rocklike shapes which draw attention to the flatness of the picture plane. In another section a water scene at sunset creates atmosphere and alludes to a recognizable image. Blair is constantly forcing the viewer in and out of familiarity; the strong verticality of the works helps to distort our sense of space and placement of objects. The most disarming works had long stretches of empty luminous light in the center, where the seduction of color and pattern were more subdued and the painting in general was purer and less detailed. This show is visually entertaining and conceptually stimulating as well as timely in its play of modernity and simple formalist painting. —S.H.