

George Cohen's Fanciful Paintings

GEORGE COHEN is presenting his first exhibition in New York at the Charles Alan Gallery, 766 Madison Avenue. An instructor at Northwestern University, Cohen is also a versatile artist whose floating fancies are caught up in smile-provoking symbols, and whose originality shines through in the most unlikely places.

Most of his canvases in this exhibition are curious assemblages of disparate symbols: stockinged legs, lips, facing profiles and actual mirrors to underline the artist's mirror-image mind. They are scattered over loosely painted canvases, often with frag-

ments of collage on them, and spell out high spirits rather than a precise surrealist intellect.

At times Cohen breaks up his surface with willful flurries of just plain linear skeins, or drawings of recessive profiles, often upside down. Naturally, the level of fancy is uneven, but at its most impulsive, this art demands attention. Cohen's ability to pick up the humorous implications of ancient Greek running maenads, and his wry, many-legged-and-lipped design for an "Emblem for an Unknown Nation" marks him as a freely developing, independent artist.

D. A.

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