

HYPERALLERGIC

Different Strokes for Jane, or Ekphrasis on Alexis

BY BEN LA ROCCO NOVEMBER 8, 2015



It's Up to You (2008), mixed media, 21 1/2 x 27 1/2 x 1 3/4 inches

On the occasion of viewing
Alexis Smith at Garth Greenan Gallery
(October 22–December 5, 2015).

Pathetic, just pathetic, to expect
Strangers to know your name I guess
Such is the price of fame



Slice of Life (2009), mixed media, 23 x 22 3/4 inches

Lorraine, it's up to you
Alexis Smith what's this
Sad confluence of solitudes



Vermeer Diptych (2013), mixed media, 21 1/2 x 17 1/4 x 15 inches

A Vermeer diptych that's split
But did you also feel that way
Say, couldn't it be an image war



Strangelove (2004), mixed media, 30 1/8 x 24 1/4 x 3 1/8 inches

You fought yourself for anonymity
Easy to kill it when you live at home with mother
The generation gap – draw me a map



High Society (2013), mixed media, 30 x 21 3/4 inches

Family values: easy to murder the other
Anger walking back and forth in a
Small train looks in, sees, pees



Adventures of Huckleberry Finn (2013), mixed media, 10 1/4 x 8 1/4 inches

Maybe, sucks in his lip, *seer-up*, paces
Jester, we see each other across the threshold
Maybe, rap but wind up black and blue ways



Riches Have Wings (2002), mixed media, 26 1/2 x 24 1/2 x 2 1/2 inches

Of moving back
Down lover's lane
Riches have wings



Lonesome Cowboy (2002), mixed media, 54 1/4 x 40 1/2 x 3 inches

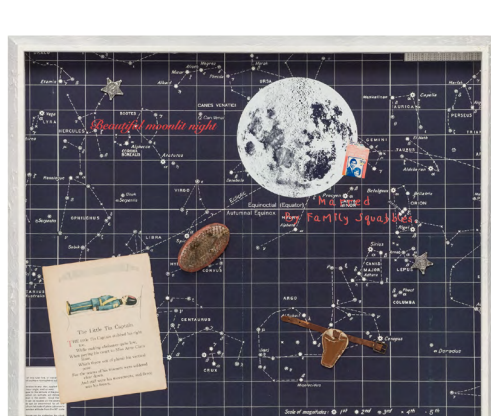
These are found things

Lonesome cowboy
You're a Kerouac haiku
Just a slice of life but whose



Jester (2013), mixed media, 25 x 18 inches

Calamity Jack of you don't know Dick
Diamonds stairway to the stars
A bit like Magritte



Kerouac Haiku (1994), mixed media, 27 3/4 x 32 7/8 x 2 3/4 inches

This is how things exist, folks
The adventures of Huck Finn in high society
Or the Queen of Hearts for Jane's strange love