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Susanne Kühn

Bill Maynes

529 West 20th Street, Chelsea

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Last year in her first New York show, the young German painter Susanne Kühn exhibited curious hyper-Romantic yet vaguely Pop landscape canvases. This time she is showing black-and-white, ink-on-paper drawings, and the reduced palette and size give her inventive graphic vision a fine concentration.

Working neatly with homemade ink on slightly grayed pages that resemble old parchment, Ms. Kühn draws primordial wilderness scenes in an intricately linear cartoon style. Images of towering pines, craggy cliffs, dismal swamps, roaring waterfalls and radiant skies project a sublime pantheism that calls to mind the art of Caspar David Friedrich. Meanwhile Ms. Kühn's graphic vocabulary evokes a resonant range of associations: traditional Japanese landscape painting, Art Nouveau, German Expressionist woodcuts, contemporary comic books.

Her surfaces are enthralling. She gives a different line and texture to every element in a drawing: rocks may be striated, clouds made of dots, trees silhouetted, streams formed like undulating ribbons. Still, the pictures cohere as haunting, melodramatic scenes. They are goofy — Ms. Kühn is in part satirizing Romantic clichés — but they nevertheless exude a genuinely affecting transcendentalist spirituality.

KEN JOHNSON