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495 BROADWAY / 3RD FLOOR
NEW YORK / NY 10012
TEL 212.925.2035
WWW.SWISSINSTITUTE.NET

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NEW YORKER
8 JUNE 2010
by ANDREA SCOTT



THE NEW YORKER

“Adolf Dietrich/Richard Phillips: Painting and Misappropriation”

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Dietrich (1877-1957) may be the greatest painter you’ve never heard of. A national treasure in his native Switzerland, during his lifetime he was lumped in with the Neue Sachlichkeit and also branded as an Alpine Henri Rousseau. But as happens with genius, no label quite fits. His still-lives and landscapes evince a precision that borders on the perverse (think Christian Schad with a soft spot for toucans). On paper, Dietrich might seem an odd match for Phillips, the American painter who shows at Gagosian and whose paintings pop up on “Gossip Girl.” But Phillips has been quietly championing the Swiss genius for years, embezzling alpine lakes and frisky squirrels into his paintings since 2003, playing David Salle to Dietrich’s Francis Picabia. In the best of the show’s three rooms, Phillips pays audacious fealty to the Master by repainting an intimate floral still-life, pumping it up to roughly nine feet square. By all rights, it should be a disaster. Instead, it’s a triumph—a strange new original that only strengthens the spell of its source. Through June 26.

Swiss Institute
495 Broadway, at Broome St.
New York, N.Y.
212-925-2035
swissinstitute.net

