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Ken Johnson
Hans Schärer: Madonnas and
Erotic Watercolors
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ART & DESIGN

Museum & Gallery Listings for Jan. 29-Feb. 4

JAN. 28, 2016

Galleries: SoHo



"Madonna (Rösi)," from 1980, is on view as part of the Hans Schärer: "Madonnas and Erotic Watercolors" exhibition at the Swiss Institute Contemporary Art in Manhattan.

Erben Werk Hans Schärer/2015 ProLitteris, Zurich; Private Collection, Galerie Michel Haas, Berlin

★ **Hans Schärer: 'Madonnas and Erotic Watercolors'** (through Feb. 7) One of Switzerland's most celebrated artists, Hans Schärer (1927–1997) created paintings that look as if made by a self-taught psychiatric patient. This delightful show presents two bodies of work created between the late 1960s and the mid-1980s. In the main gallery are 41 portraits of the biblical Mary, each called "Madonna." On the mezzanine level are 87 watercolors: cartoon images of voluptuous women cheerfully engaging in all kinds of sexual activities often involving runty, priapic male figures and sometimes priests. Swiss Institute Contemporary Art, 18 Wooster Street, near Grand Street, SoHo, 212-925-2035, swissinstitute.net. (Johnson)