



**Taylor Mead**

*Andy as the Odalisque*

1994

Churner and Churner, New York  
photo by Clayton Patterson

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205 10th Avenue

Jan. 12-Feb. 18, 2012

Want to know what's on the mind of a real beatnik? Get thee to Churner and Churner, Rachel Churner's narrow (or perhaps we should say slim) space on Tenth Avenue, where New York-born poet, artist, filmmaker and Andy Warhol superstar Taylor Mead (b. 1924) presents a recent series of whimsical drawings that illustrate his ever-evolving "Fairy Tale Poem," a saga starring Warhol in a castle in the woods. Mead, who frequently performs at the Bowery Poetry Club and was featured in the 2006 Whitney Biennial, has a style that's akin to children's scribbles (he's hardly the only one), but his works include political references (there is a "Freddie Mac Congress," for example) and adult endings (in a battle between Warhol the hero and "The Monster," they both end up dead). Also featured are Ellen Barkin as The Princess, Donald Trump as The Castle, and Elizabeth Taylor as The Horse.

On view in the back are some paintings retrieved from Mead's Lower East Side apartment, having survived "cockroach infestation, subsequent fumigation and a collapsed ceiling." These have all the vim and vigor of Abstract Expressionism and the simple charm of Art Brut. Don't miss *Andy as the Odalisque*, in which Warhol is extended half-nude against some idyllic landscape as a Campbell Soup can explodes like a volcano behind him. Mead's symbolism is as basic as it gets -- for "Paradise," insert palm tree, for "Ethiopia," add a boar. Drawings can be had for as low as \$600, while the paintings are considerably more.