

CAMERON HAYES At first glance his paintings might appear to be formally challenged abstractions, but up close they swarm with a microcosmic profusion of anecdotal incident and grotesque life-forms, as well as an occasional dusting of glitter. Like the all-inclusive "mental home" (for sleepwalkers, orphans, lotto addicts, and faux-naive holy terrors) in one of his works, Hayes welcomes everybody into his overcrowded world of minuscule froggy creatures. Teeming with social satire and antisocial activity, these hyperventilating allegories are manic breeding grounds for pictorial chaos. In his native Australia, he's been called a 21st-century Hogarth as well as a "brilliant ratbag." THROUGH MARCH 31, Ronald Feldman, 31 Mercer Street, 226-3232. (Levin)