

# THE NEW YORKER

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GOINGS ON ABOUT TOWN

## ART

### GALLERIES—UPTOWN

#### WILLIAM POPE.L

Pope.L lines the gallery with more than a hundred small drawings made in transit since 2003—on airplane napkins, newspaper photographs, hotel stationery, a Howard Johnson’s shoe mitt, and so on. The images tend toward the humorously sexual, with plenty of bespectacled worms, volcanoes, and explosions. He titled them “Failure Drawings,” but failure overstates the situation; “Pope.L lite” is more like it. A few larger works—including “Coffin (Flag Box),” a padlocked wooden box resting on a book labelled “The Birth of a Nation” and emitting unhappy sounds of scratching, dragging, and bumping—reveal a more complex and rewarding side to the artist’s wit. Through Oct. 24. (Mitchell-Innes & Nash, 1018 Madison Ave. 212-744-7400.)