

Best in Show

Recommendations by R.C. Baker

Lois Dodd

The title *View From Corner of Chicken House* will give you some idea of the pastoral yet matter-of-fact content of these small oil paintings by Dodd (b. 1927). In that 1983 work, a shadowed quilt with a rusty red-and-gray checkerboard pattern hangs on a clothesline abutting a sunny yellow clapboard wall.

Painted in concise, vibrant strokes, Dodd's plein air panels are filled with stirring light, which turns a shingled wall into a cascade of blue trapezoids or drying linens into bright diamonds. The colors are carefully tuned, such as a mauve outbuilding contrasting with yellow curtains, and structures are stripped to essential geometric forms, while fauna is reduced to spare details—diagonal branches or an arcing mass of leaves—giving these unsentimental scenes a powerful abstract jolt. *Alexandre*, 41 E 57th, 212-755-2828. Through May 29.