

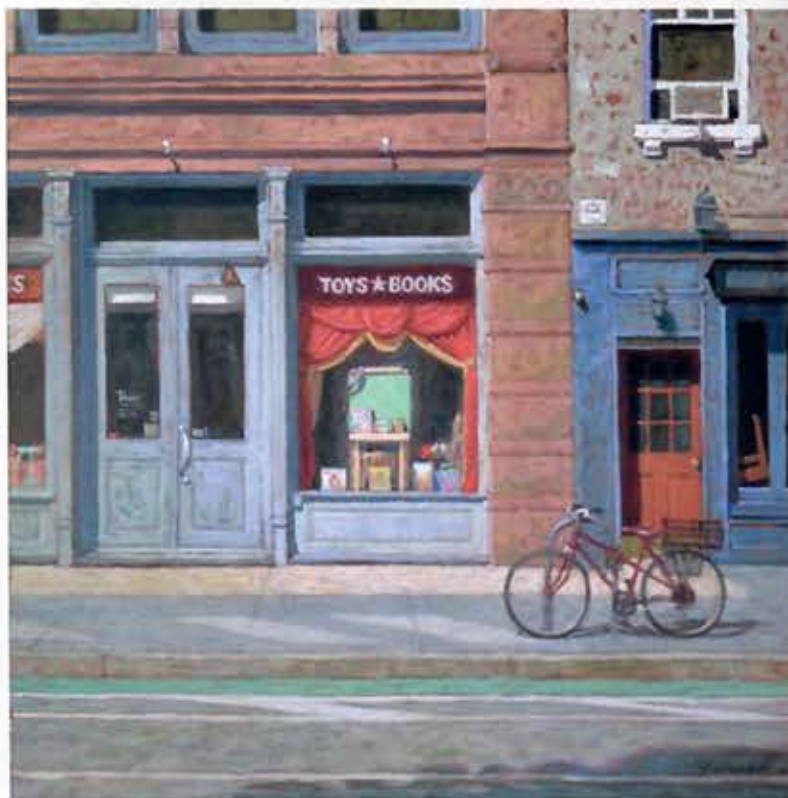
PAUL SCHULENBURG

City Solitude

Cape Cod-based artist Paul Schulenburg's upcoming exhibition at George Billis Gallery features the quieter moments that can be observed within a bustling cityscape—things like the simplicity of a bicycle parked on the sidewalk or pastel pastries in a bakery window. "For the most part I tune out the noise and congestion so often considered a big part of city life and concentrate on things that otherwise might go unnoticed," says Schulenburg of his latest body of work.

Though Schulenburg lives in Massachusetts, this series of cityscapes—a subject the artist doesn't focus on as often in his other works—comes from time spent on a trip to New York during a quiet time of year. "I did a painting of the exterior of the Magnolia bakery in the Village. Usually during the day there is a line of eager customers going out the door. I chose a time of day when the lights were on inside the building, but the business was not yet open. There is a world of temptations just inside those windows, through the door," says Schulenburg of his oil *Magnolia*.

In *Magnolia, Upper West Side*, a painting that evokes a sense of warmth and comfort, viewers have an indoor view of the famous bakery. "In this painting I was interested in the blue light outside in contrast with the warm light and colorful baked goods inside. The painted floor is mostly worn down to bare wood from foot traffic. The fresh baked goods of the day are waiting for the next customer." A constant observer



1
Toys & Books, oil on canvas, 30 x 30"

2
Magnolia, Upper West Side, oil on canvas, 28 x 22"

3
Blue Bike, oil on canvas, 28 x 22"

of the world around him, Schulenburg explains that he wanted to portray the "fun on the other side of the glass."

"I'm hoping people can see something they relate to and appreciate or find interesting," he says. *Toys & Books* depicts the baby blue storefront of a toy shop contrasted by an idle red bicycle in the right-hand corner of the composition. "In the painting *Toys & Books* I was interested in the stage set inside the storefront window on Hudson Street—the seriousness of the concrete and cement architectural shapes of the building's sidewalk and street as opposed to the playful curtains and colorful objects in the window. A red bicycle is parked outside, which made me think of how someone might ride their bike to a toy or book store to find something new and exciting. The painting is about the solid, sober, concrete world outside and the world of wonder through those doors."

Schulenburg's upcoming exhibition runs March 26 to April 27, with an opening reception on March 28 from 6 to 8 p.m. ●

George Billis Gallery, 525 W. 26th Street, Ground Floor • New York, NY 10001 • (212) 645-2621 • www.georgebillis.com

