

GAGOSIAN GALLERY



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GALLERIES—CHELSEA

PIERO MANZONI

It's bad-boy season. Kippenberger's at MOMA, and Manzoni, the self-taught Italian who tested the limits of painting and sculpture in his abrupt, influential career (he died in 1963, at the age of twenty-nine), has a museum-worthy show in Chelsea. A simple iron base, inscribed with the upside-down words "Socle du Monde" (seen here in a photograph), transforms the earth into a ready-made sculpture; cans labelled "Artist's Shit" mock both the commodification of art and the fetishization of the creative process. Best of all, the show places Manzoni in a wide-ranging context, exhibiting his "achromes"—scruffy canvases encrusted with colorless matter from white clay to cotton balls—alongside works by Yves Klein, Yayoi Kusama, Robert Ryman, Frank Stella, and others. Through March 21. (Gagosian, 555 W. 24th St. 212-741-1111.)

