

THE NEW YORKER

25 May, 2015

GALLERIES - DOWNTOWN

Thomas Schütte

Ceramic busts of a woman and a man, the latter with pigment dripping down his neck, introduce this showcase of twenty Eierköpfe, or eggheads, by the German artist. The ceramic ovoids, glazed in tones from bronze to green to putty, have eyes and mouths formed by shallow incisions or circular punctures that might make you think of a bowling ball. (You might also think of the eighteenth-century German artist Franz Xaver Messerschmidt, who also explored the sculptural possibilities of facial expressions.) Banners reproducing Schütte's etchings—an ear, a hare, a scrawled “sorry”—come off as pranks, but the gang of shouting and screaming ceramics feels not just persuasive but timeless. Through May 30.

(Peter Freeman, Inc., 140 Grand St. 212-966-5154)