



# THE ART NEWSPAPER

## Three exhibitions to see in New York this weekend

From Eugene Von Bruenchenhein's rapturous paintings to Brassai's Parisian underground

GABRIELLA ANGELETI and WALLACE LUDEL

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### **Eugene Von Bruenchenhein: Phantasmagorical Paintings 1957-61**

Until 23 January at Andrew Edlin Gallery, 212 Bowery, Manhattan

Eugene Von Bruenchenhein, an Outsider artist from Wisconsin, explored three substantial bodies of work in his lifetime: sculptures, which are primarily either ceramic or made from chicken bones; small, devotional photographic portraits of his wife Marie, which run the gamut from the erotic to the psychedelic, with a wide range in between; and paintings. Von Bruenchenhein began painting in the 1950s, developing techniques using brushes made from his wife's hair, combs, his fingers, tools from his job as a baker and other idiosyncratic supplies to manipulate paint on masonite. They feel almost biblical, combining in a kaleidoscopic fervor Von Bruenchenhein's anxieties about global atomic annihilation—as he was painting at the height of the Cold War, when such an apocalypse felt imminent—with his love for organic creatures and the cosmos. Though not exhibited until after his death, today it would be justified to view this oeuvre as a heavy hitter in the long lineage of artworks concerned with the creation and destruction myths of their particular zeitgeist. — *Wallace Ludel*