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CHINATOWN

Becky Kolsrud

Through Feb. 28. Magenta Plains, 149 Canal Street; 917-388-2464, magentaplains.com.



Becky Kolsrud, "Acéphale (after Masson)," 2025, oil on canvas. via Becky Kolsrud and Magenta Plains, New York.

In the 1920s and 1930s, competing strains of surrealism pitted André Breton's cadre of poets and visual artists devoted to Freudian ideas against Georges Bataille's more anarchic, bodily approach. Both strains were pretty misogynist.

Nearly a hundred years later, the Los Angeles painter Becky Kolsrud remakes surrealism with tough nudes, human skulls, Venuses and orbs that suggest protean creativity, as well as fertility. Kolsrud leans toward the Bataille camp, remaking André Masson's "Acephale" figure from the 1930s, a headless Vitruvian man. In Kolsrud's hands, Masson's figure is female.

In some ways, Kolsrud's work is a niche project. (Bataille fans, rejoice!) However, her bold, blunt feminist paintings offer a new chapter in the enduring popularity of Surrealism and its critique of Western so-called rationalism and Enlightenment. *MARTHA SCHWENDENER*