

the village

VOICE



R.C. Baker

### R.C. Baker's *After Krivov, Rockefeller, and Warhol*, 1968 series (2008, detail)

[TALK]

## DOUBLE LIFE

Who is the real R.C. Baker?

There are two fascinating artists showing right now at Zone: Contemporary Art—but only one of them is real. First, there's **R.C. Baker**, the actual artist behind the gallery's fabulous new multidimensional

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show... *and Nixon's coming*, which spans 30 years of Baker's stunning drawings, paintings, and prints, and includes still-lives, black-and-white action paintings, and comic-book pages. But as you go through the gallery, you'll notice all the

works are attributed to someone named... Kirby Holland? Holland is, of course, none other than Baker's alter ego, and his story is told through Baker's imaginative book, best described as a "literary/historical/graphic-novel/art-catalogue hybrid." Today, hear Baker, who is also the *Voice's* own art critic, read from the book, which tells of Holland's journey from impressionable art-school student, to World War II soldier, to comic-book illustrator during the McCarthy-era witch hunts, to eclectic painter in the 1970s. Any fan of painting, graphics, or simply good storytelling won't want to miss it. At 1, *Zone: Contemporary Art*, 41 West 57th Street, 212-255-2177, free

ANGELA ASHMAN

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