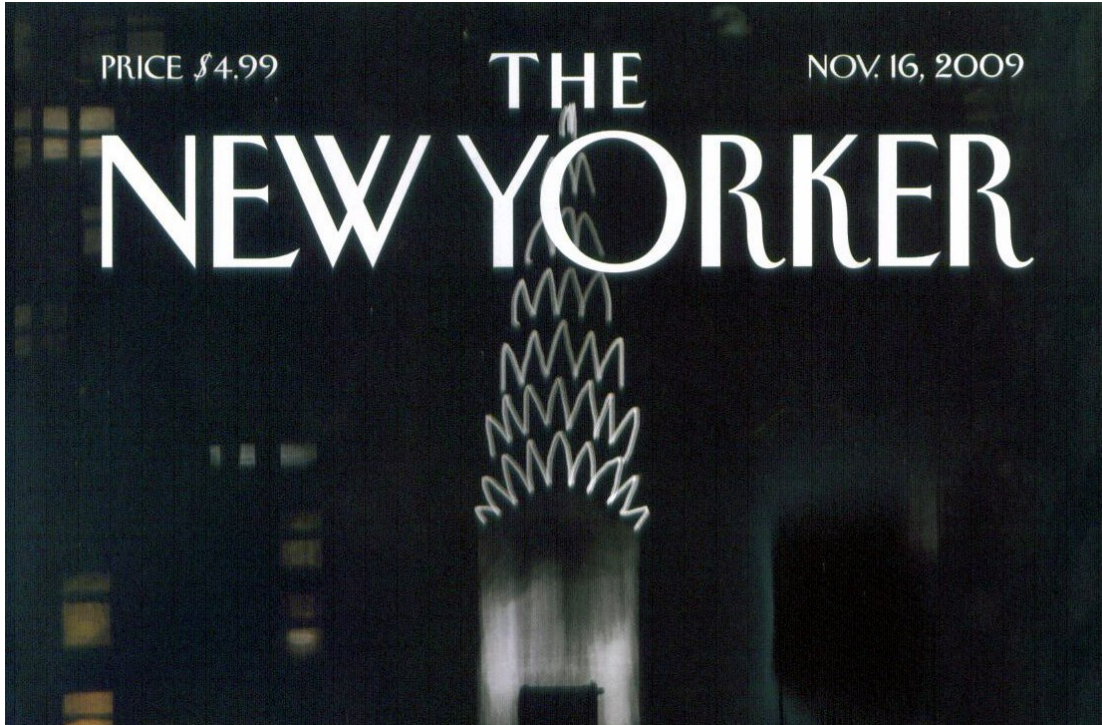


MORGAN LEHMAN



EMILIE CLARK

The artist continues her conceptual game of collecting collectors, making art about specimen-gathering naturalists from the nineteenth century (the self-taught American botanist Mary Treat, the Irish scientist Mary Ward). This time, Clark's quarry is Martha Maxwell, a rootin' tootin' Colorado taxidermist who bagged her own specimens and, notoriously, constructed a cave featuring her prey, where she lived during Philadelphia's 1876 World's Fair. Clark's homage to Maxwell's tour de force is a sculptural installation of toy stuffed animals; heavy on the Mike Kelley, it falls flat. But Clark shines in graceful watercolors and ambitious canvases. Abstraction and figuration become indistinguishable. Beauty is balanced by provocation. Painting becomes an ongoing experiment in mutation and hybridized form. Through Nov. 21. (Morgan Lehman, 317 Tenth Ave., at 28th St. 212-268-6699.)