

# The New York Times

Art In Review

## Ella Kruglyanskaya and Benjamin Senior

By KAREN ROSENBERG July 21, 2011



*The Bathers* by Benjamin Senior at James Fuentes

This pairing of figurative painters is a paean to summer fun, of the active and passive varieties. Ella Kruglyanskaya, in between solo stints at White Columns and Salon 94, depicts sunbathers in busily patterned beachwear; Benjamin Senior, a Londoner making his New York gallery debut, renders sleek swimmers, joggers and other athletic types.

Each artist has three small works and one bigger one. For Ms. Kruglyanskaya, smaller is better. She responds to the reduced scale by cropping the figure, creating some hectic, near-abstract compositions that show off her comic-book style. "Untitled (Monster Face Bather)" zeroes in on a woman's torso, clad in a one-piece swimsuit that seems to have grown googly eyes and a grimacing mouth.

If her boisterous beachgoers bring to mind the free-for-all of Coney Island, Mr. Senior's sporting women — meticulously modeled in egg tempera — make up an exclusive athletic club. His "Bathers," an indoor pool scene conversant with *Gérôme*, *Cézanne* and *Paul Cadmus*, is the standout here. It outshines his smaller paintings of workout buddies doing mat exercises and running, though these are more explicitly contemporary. The figures in "Tilt," for instance, use plastic stability balls as props.

In the end the subject matter doesn't tell you much about the energy levels of these paintings: Ms. Kruglyanskaya's are vigorous, Mr. Senior's reserved. They're well matched here.