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NAKED!

Paul Kasmin Gallery

293 10th Avenue, near 27th Street,

Chelsea

Through Sept. 19

Although it includes images of men, a more accurate title than “Naked!” for this entertainingly lubricious show would be “Naked Women of Child-Bearing Age.”

A large part of the show’s appeal is its eclecticism. The 44 works selected by the independent curator Adrian Dannatt and the gallery’s proprietor, Paul Kasmin, range from a sweetly comical painting of the river god Alpheus chasing the rather zaftig nymph Arethusa, by Moyses van Uyttenbroeck, from around 1626, to Walter Robinson’s 2009 painting of a woman whose soles occupy most of the foreground.

In the front gallery Mel Ramos’s 2007 sculpture of a voluptuous woman emerging from an open banana peel faces off against a smooth bronze Diana, made in 1880 by the French academician Alexandre Falguière, as an ethereal, doll-like odalisque neatly painted by Mark Ryden in 2008 looks on. In the middle gallery one of Philip Pearlstein’s clinically realistic pictures of a pair of female models from 1965 hangs across the room from [John Wesley](#)’s “Two Women” (2002), a formally refined cartoon picture suggestive of Sapphic love.

The gallery’s back room, where many smaller works hang, is dominated by Cecily Brown’s large frontal painting of a masturbating man and an egregious assemblage by John Bock involving toilet paper tubes and pornographic photographs of women.

A smaller exhibition called “Size Matters” in Mr. Kasmin’s satellite space at 511 West 27th Street shifts the balance. Works by [Robert Mapplethorpe](#), Tom of Finland, Betty Tompkins, Judith Bernstein and others attend to the definitive element of male anatomy. KEN JOHNSON