

the village VOICE

At 90, Picasso went to a children's art show and enthused, "When I was their age I drew like Raphael, but it's taken my whole life to learn how to draw like them." **Valentina DuBasky's** a quicker study than Picasso; her *Dream Animal #6* is Mary's Little Lamb is seen by the prodigy of the preschool paintboxers. It's fleece is as gray as schmutz, but, set against a lurid lavender background, this peculiar beast has sublime quirkiness. With four vari-colored stick feet and a dinky pinhead, this creature seems all torso – oblong and over scale. The crusty paint DuBasky uses – tempera? casein? – gives this delightful animal portrait a physical flakiness rivaling its pictorial. Rosa Bonheur might have been a more accomplished animal painter, but unlike Bonheur, DuBasky's wonderful manipulation of color and subject is sensational rather than sentimental.

– C. R.