

# MODERN PAINTERS

FEBRUARY 2012 | ARTINFO.COM

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February, 2012



PRIVATE VIEW NEW YORK

## ELLEN HARVEY

"THIS IS VERY MAD and self-indulgent," says **Ellen Harvey** of her series "The Nudist Museum Gift Shop," the centerpiece of her show at the **Dodge Gallery**, opening February 23. "As a child, I always loved going to museums because of the nudity. I was very fond of naked people." The show features dozens of paintings of decorative consumer objects that are ornamented with nudes, such as a penknife accented with naked women, as well as a number of works that re-create every nude postcard available at a museum gift shop in New York City's five boroughs. Harvey's exhibition also includes *The Nudist Museum*, 2010, which began as a commission for the Bass Museum, in Miami. For that, the artist rendered her own versions of the 54 paintings in the Bass's collection, cropping and zeroing in on the naughty bits. The paintings are arrayed on a background wallpapered with mass-media images of nudes. "I wanted something that keeps the element of seduction," Harvey says. "I think people take the nude for granted."

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**Ellen Harvey**  
*The Nudist Museum*,  
 2010 (detail). Oil on  
 gesso board.