

# Weekend Pass

# Seeing Your Self

Two young D.C.-area artists salvage the art of the self-portrait

**GALLERIES** | The art of portrait painting is rather out of style among young contemporary artists, unless the sitters are grotesque, imaginary or so famous as to render the reproduction of their very images ironic.

But for a couple of young local talents now on display at Fraser Gallery, the mirror is fraught with enough love, loathing and history to feed the painters' sense of drama as well as their aesthetic needs.

Scott Hutchison creates unflinching, dramatic portraits of himself, some in extreme close-up, in an ancient-church-walls palette of grays, browns and blues, and paints female nudes, truncated Courbet-style or elongated, in brilliant rich pastels.

Caroline Danforth uses her brush with as much agility as she twists and poses. Her small oils on wood focus on the sinuous, sinewy curve of her spine or her broad, frank facial features, and she mixes the tender pinky-beige of her flesh-tones with a poisonous green for the shadows.



COURTESY OF FRASER GALLERY

Scott Hutchison's crazed but keen "Self (Eyes)," one in his series of unflinching, dramatic self-portraits.

These artists are finding new ways to observe the human body using a most old-fashioned technique. (EXPRESS)

*Fraser Gallery Bethesda, 7700 Wisconsin Ave., Suite E, Bethesda; show opens Fri., Nov. 14; gallery hours Tues.-Sat., 11:30 a.m.-6 p.m.; 301-718-9651.*