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MARK FLOOD

The American painter dares viewers to take him seriously in an absurdist press release, which declares him “the least important German artist of the post-World War II period.” There are some big, decorative abstract canvases, but most of the paintings ape signs; some are stencilled on flimsy silver-painted cardboard and herald (or hawk?) other works: “25 Additional Paintings,” “2 More Paintings.” There are also distorted portraits of celebrities, including Katie Couric, Anderson Cooper, and the cast of “Sex in the City.” Subversion and showmanship merge, as do self-effacement and grandiosity. Flood isn’t a genius, but his show is a hoot. Through July 10. (Feuer, 530 W. 24th St. 212-989-7700.)

“Mark Flood.” The New Yorker 22 June 2009: 14.