

the village

VOICE

GARY SCHNEIDER His enormous portraits—his first in color—are made in the dark over a period of time, during which Schneider illuminates his subject's face bit by bit with a tiny, constantly moving flashlight (reflected in the eyes as galaxies in miniature). What results is the opposite of Thomas Ruff's hyper-realist headshots, not just because Schneider's sitters emerge like specters from the darkest night, but because their slightest movement is recorded as a Picasso-like melting of features. Yet even the most distorted and mask-like faces feel extraordinarily, poignantly present—an illusion as compelling as it is transparent. **THROUGH APRIL 19**, Julie Saul Gallery, 535 West 22nd Street, 212-627-2410. (Aletti)

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