



I Am Curious (Yellow)

In search of inspiration for one of her paintings, now on shameless view at the Whitney Biennial, Lisa Yuskavage looked high and low. **By Charles Gandee**

Lisa Yuskavage is sitting in her sixth-floor Tribeca studio watching the paint dry on *Day*, a large, buttercup-yellow nude of a curvaceous young woman who resembles Pia Zadora in her prime. "I think she's a spectacle, and the way she seems to be raising her shirt suggests she's regarding herself as a spectacle," says the 37-year-old artist. "But then it's all about revealing something

incredibly beautiful and astonishing and *wow*."

As Yuskavage knows, "wow" can be a minefield. "When my paintings were first shown, a lot of people freaked out—especially straight guys, because they feel guilty, like, 'Oh, God, you know about this?' But I'm not interested in being ghettoized as a 'woman' artist, or in being didactic. I want to take guilt, politics, and gender out of

my work. Plus, I want to play in the larger arena, to associate my ideas and myself with the artists I have admired since I was very young: Degas, Vermeer, Giovanni Bellini."

But high art, obviously, isn't Yuskavage's only source of inspiration. "Having said I'm interested in making something glorious, its roots are also foul," continues the niece of one presumably very

perplexed nun in Seattle. "One of the inspirations for *Day* was *Penthouse* in the '70s, which was filled with pictures of women alone in rooms, admiring themselves." Those pictures, of course, were in turn admired by men alone in *their* rooms. Just as *Day* may ultimately be. "My husband, who is very funny," laughs Yuskavage, "says this painting is 'stroke' material for the patriarchy!" ■

FEATURES



120 COVER STORY

Tom Talks Turkey
We had a few questions for the man who keeps Nicole warm at night. Guess what? He answered them.
By Chris Connelly



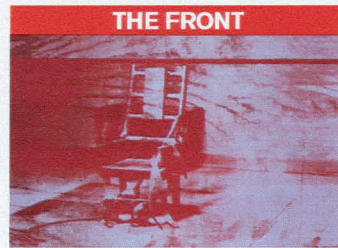
150 SECRET HISTORY

Diary of a Mad Movie
Sure, it won five Oscars, but between the drinks, the diamonds, and the Desbutol, it's a miracle *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* ever got made.
By Ernest Lehman



126 INTERNATIONAL DIALOGUE

Jungle Book
Luther and Johnny Htoo are the world's only chain-smoking fundamentalist Christian 12-year-old terrorist twins. And they're in very big trouble.
By Nate Thayer and Bertil Lintner



THE FRONT

36 TINA BROWN'S NOTEBOOK

Mixed-Up Millennium
All is flux and paradox.

TALK CONTRIBUTORS

38 T-MAIL

Readers bite back.



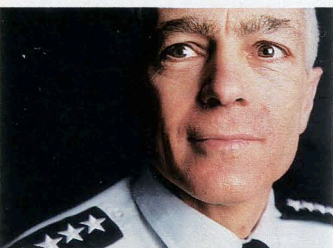
132 THE BIG PICTURE

Born to Bijou
Some of the stories about wild child turned singer turned actress Bijou Phillips are true. But which ones? No one seems to know, not even the aspiring star.
By Daisy Garnett



43 FIRST LOOK

From Sea to Shining Scene
Talk raced the good ship Prada in the America's Cup, celebrated the Golden Globes in Hollywood, screened a few gems at Sundance, and scored a front-row seat at Marc Jacobs's New York show!



136 WAR STORY

Dark Victory
General Wesley Clark may have won the war in Kosovo, but he lost his job. Why? The good soldier's still struggling to accept the Pentagon's answer.
By Laura Silber



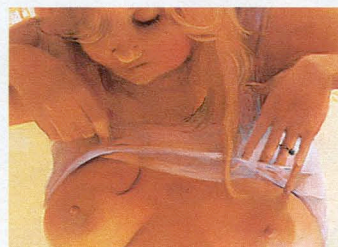
49 THE CONVERSATION

Palm Pilots
All the presidents' hands.
Workin' the Red Carpet
The battle of the ball gowns.
Marriage Exchange
Lili and Richard Zanuck.
I Am Curious (Yellow)
One of Lisa Yuskavage's buxom beauties checks herself out at the Whitney. Why don't you?



140 SOCIAL STUDIES

Goodbye to All That
Disillusioned with *la dolce vita*, a group of young Italian socialites seeks salvation in the convent.
By Cristina Odone



Hallelujah!
The man who got Jane Fonda to church on time.
Harvard Calling
Rei Kawakubo, the mother of Comme des Garçons, goes back to school.
If These Walls Could Talk
The hotel where Bessie Smith called it a day.



146 PORTRAIT

Ball Buster
Now that he's the star of the NBA, the Sixers' Allen Iverson has his own \$115 Reebok sneaker—"The Answer." Fine. But what about the gun? And that stint in jail?
By Mark Kriegel



71 TALKING PICTURES

Auteur! Auteur!
Six young filmmakers—Malcolm D. Lee, M. Night Shyamalan, Kimberly Peirce, Alexander Payne, Don Roos, and Gavin O'Connor—take a turn on the other side of the camera.
Photos by Michael Birt