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István Banyai

KENNY SCHARF

This show opens with a portrait of Scharf's dealer, the gallery owner Tony Shafrazi—a work requiring just the sort of diplomacy that drove Sargent from portrait-painting. Scharf took care of that by making his dealer (as he did almost all of his subjects) into an icon: "Maharaji Shafrazi" floats against a bright, futuristic Middle Eastern city, in an ornate frame. Others venerated include Ed Ruscha, RuPaul, and Cindy Sherman, as an "Angel in Hell." It isn't all celebrities: a monumental

"Family Portrait," nearly twenty feet wide, shows Scharf and his wife and children hovering among symbols of the good life and recent history, including houses, a dog, a Cadillac, and the burning World Trade Center. The painting affirms Scharf's brand of kooky traditionalism twice over: he paints from life, and his loved ones prove to be his ideal subjects. Through Dec. 1. (Shafrazi, 119 Wooster St. 274-9300.)