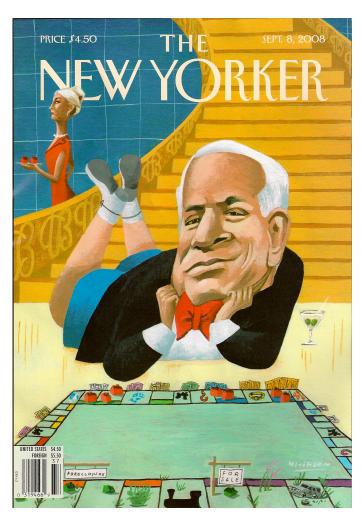
KATHRYN MARKEL

FINE ARTS EST. 1976



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GALLERIES—CHELSEA

SYDNEY LICHT

At first glance, it may look like Licht has given the classical genre of still-life painting a "Sex and the City" update, replacing arrangements of apples and oranges with those of shopping bags from Bendel's and Bergdorf's. But while the ostensible subject of these deft little oils is, indeed, the trappings of shopping, it's clear that Licht's real interest lies in the prima materia of paint. Giorgio Morandi, the master alchemist of the still-life, is an obvious touchstone, even when the palette shifts from lunar white to bright red. Opens Sept. 4. (Markel, 529 W. 20th St. 212-366-5368.)