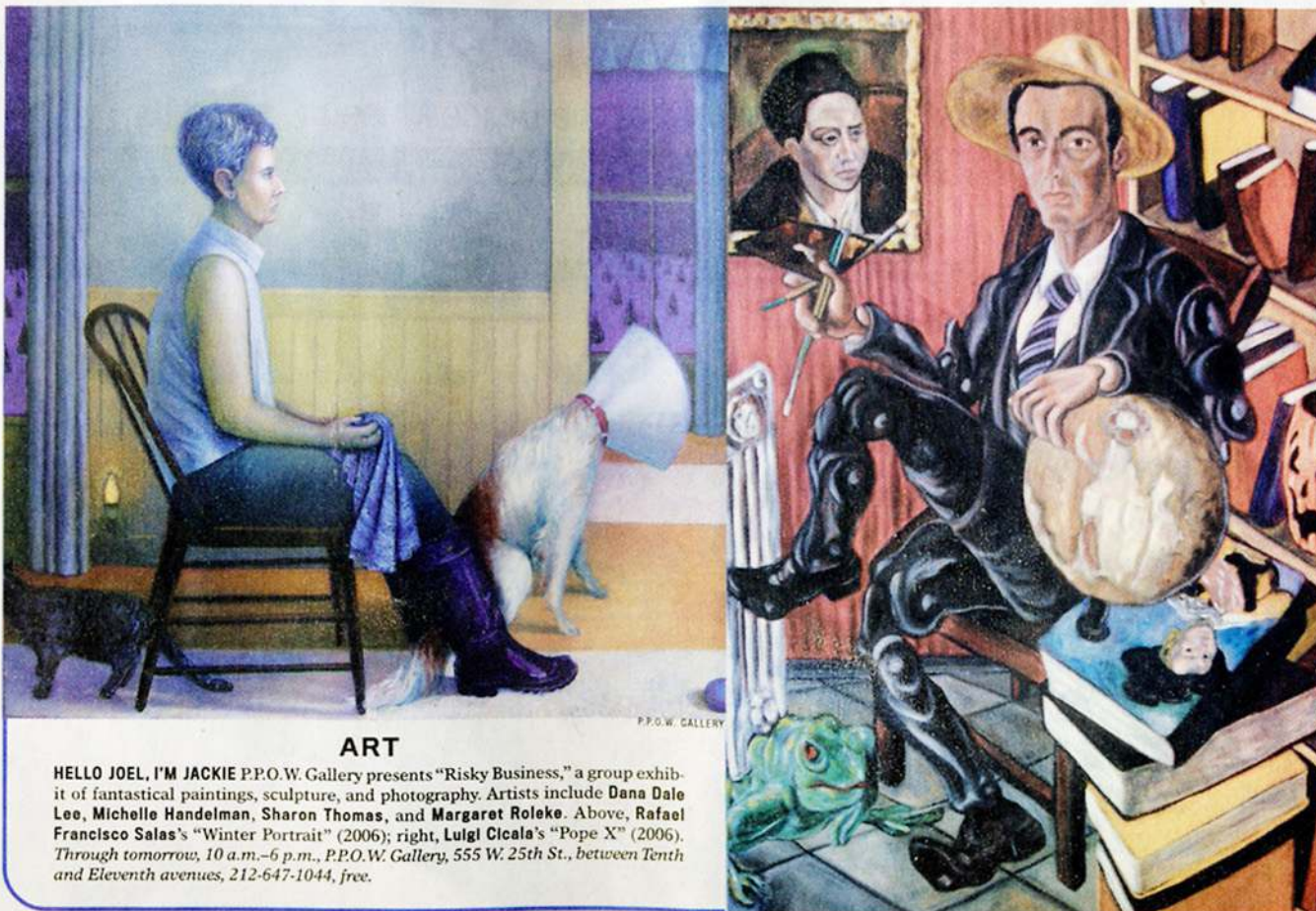


ON THE TOWN

CALENDAR



ART

HELLO JOEL, I'M JACKIE P.P.O.W. Gallery presents "Risky Business," a group exhibit of fantastical paintings, sculpture, and photography. Artists include **Dana Dale Lee**, **Michelle Handelman**, **Sharon Thomas**, and **Margaret Roleke**. Above, **Rafael Francisco Salas's** "Winter Portrait" (2006); right, **Luigi Cicala's** "Pope X" (2006). Through tomorrow, 10 a.m.-6 p.m., P.P.O.W. Gallery, 555 W. 25th St., between Tenth and Eleventh avenues, 212-647-1044, free.

Poem That Changed America" (Farrar, Straus & Giroux) and a "public howl" led by poet **Edwin Torres**. **Amiri Baraka** performs with his band **Blue Ark**. *Saturday, 1 p.m., Bowery Poetry Club, 308 Bowery, between Houston and Bleecker streets, 212-615-0505, \$10 general, \$6 students.*

READINGS

LONG STORY SHORT Back House Productions and Cherry Lane Theatre present "The Middle East, In Pieces," a reading of six short plays that address various conflicts in the region. The work is directed by **Thomas Caruso** and featured playwrights include **Israel Horowitz**, **Betty Shamleh**, and **Kia Corthron**. *Tonight, 8 p.m., Cherry Lane Theatre, 38 Commerce St. at Seventh Avenue, 212-989-2020, \$10 suggested donation.*

TALKS

PARTY TALK The New York Young Republican Club presents a discussion by the chairman of the Republican National Committee, **Ken Mehlman**, as part of the club's monthly meeting. The organization is collecting donation for troops abroad. Suggested items include sunscreen, lip balm, trail mix, and granola bars. *Tonight, 7 p.m., Union League Club, 38 E. 37th St., between Park and Madison avenues, 212-465-3377, free. Reservations by e-mail required to rsvp@nyrrc.com.*

THEATER

CRUEL INTENTIONS The New York International Fringe Festival and Tuesday Club Productions present "Inflition of Cruelty," about siblings who conceive a plan for retribution against their father during a family reunion. The play is di-