



## THE NEW YORKER

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### GALLERIES—CHELSEA

#### **SIMEN JOHAN**

Johan works the fertile ground between reality and illusion in big color photographs of animals and one spooky, fogbound weeping willow. At nearly six feet by eight feet, the largest of these pictures rival natural-history dioramas, but very little is natural about this menagerie. A deer in a snowy forest is uncannily white; malevolent snakes curl around sticks and one another in a sunny ravine, like fugitives from Dante's *Inferno*. A pretty little lamb and a magnificent, brooding buffalo sit for more formal portraits that recall Walton Ford's paintings, but Johan undermines even his most convincing fictions, and the nagging sense that something is wrong here keeps viewers just where he wants us: on edge. Through Oct. 31. (Milo, 525 W. 25th St. 212-414-0370.)