

Cudlin, Jeffrey, "Pulp Fiction", WASHINGTON CITY PAPER, 14 June 2007.

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"Pulp Fiction"

To Saturday, July 14, at Adamson Gallery

By [Jeffrey Cudlin](#) Posted: June 14, 2007



Don't go to Adamson's current show of comic book-related art, "Pulp Fiction," just because you're an R. Crumb fan. The infamous underground cartoonist may get top billing on the gallery's Web site, but he's only represented here by a couple of unremarkable pigment prints. Really, Crumb's presence is something of a red herring—an unnecessary one, since there's fascinating work here by contemporary artists who blur the lines between fine art, illustration, and sequential comic art. Hope Gangloff, for example, is a New York-born illustrator who renders her subjects with scratchy thin contour lines in black, blue, and red ink—often from a ballpoint pen. In *Hooligans* (pictured), she depicts three puffy-eyed disheveled hipsters in what appears to be a strip club. Their faces are framed by pointy explosions of light; in the extreme foreground, a stripper stands clad in ruby-red slippers. Renee Stout offers *Fatima and Black 9*, a triptych of colorful silkscreen prints that tell a story of love, poetry, and Hoodoo in New Orleans through snippets of text and fragmented images—an impressionistic, nonlinear comic book narrative. Marcel Dzama's *Cabinet of Count Dracula*, a series of lithographs from 2005 are small, surreal vignettes, minimally rendered. Characters in Dzama's scenarios include Dracula's fanged and pointy-eared offspring, women dressed in bear suits, and a giant, disembodied head on a wheeled cart, escorted by hooded militia men. All are entangled in some revolutionary political drama, including demonstrations, covert actions, and executions. Dzama's drawings recall Max Ernst's surrealist collage novels—as drawn by James Thurber. Also included are a few decent prints from Kiki Smith circa 2000 and a wall of Kelly Towles pieces on wood from 2004—but it's Gangloff, Stout, and Dzama who really make a trip to Adamson worthwhile. The exhibition is on view from 11:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and noon to 5 p.m. Saturday, to Saturday, July 14, at [Adamson Gallery](#), 1515 14th St. NW, Suite 202. Free. (202) 232-0707.