



THE NEW YORKER

JULY 5, 2010

LOUISE KRUGER

Kruger's chunky wooden sculptures and outside fabric wall hangings may smack of folk art, but she's definitely not an outsider. Born in Los Angeles in 1924, she studied at the Art Students League after college and in 1953 was tapped by MOMA for one of its semi-annual "New Talent" shows. (Note to gripers about youthquakes like "Greater New York": it was ever thus.) This show of works made between 1955 and 1980 looks incredibly fresh, if a bit all over the map: subjects include a lion, a farmer, a baseball player, and a bare-naked lady saluting the flag. A seven-and-a-half-foot-tall banner, made around 1969, sports an appliqued image of a flag-waving American soldier in a helmet; he's flesh-and-blood (and clothed) from the waist up, but a skeleton from the pelvis bones down. He could be the poster boy for a 2010 support-the-troops-not-the-war campaign. Through July 23. (Bookstein, 138 Tenth Ave., at 18th St. 212-750-0949.)