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## The David Brooks School of Painting

By Sarah Douglas

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Photo by Sarah Douglas

Matthew Cerletty, "David Brooks" (2009)

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LONDON—At the booth of Antwerp gallery **Office Baroque** is a small, highly realistic painting of *New York Times* op ed columnist **David Brooks**, by young American artist **Matthew Cerletty**, priced at \$14,000. Ask gallerist **Wim Peeters** why on earth Cerletty would want to depict Brooks, who is as well-known for his right-leaning views as he is for his highly readable 2000 book *Bobos in Paradise: The New Upper Class and How They Got There*, and you'll get a curious, yet strangely astute answer: "He wanted subject matter that is in line with the act of painting itself — conservative, but still appreciated by people."

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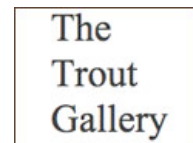
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