

## Gert and Uwe Tobias, “Come and See Before the Tourists Will Do”

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**Team Gallery**, through Mar 13  
(see Soho)

Born in Transylvania to ethnic-German parents, Gert and Uwe Tobias make sculptures, installations and works on paper that explore their Romanian cultural identity in relation to vampire movies, which have made their homeland world famous. Identical twins, the brothers are best known for their puzzlelike, color-woodblock prints that mix representational and abstract elements in a graphic, Constructivist-meets-folk-art manner. Made in editions of two, which are never exactly the same, their oversize, energetic compositions are the main attraction, along with some savvy typewriter drawings and altered books, in the Tobiases' second solo show.

All untitled, the woodcuts in “Come and See Before the Tourists Will Do—The Mystery of Transylvania” reference European horror films, complementing a series inspired by American and British thrillers from their 2004 show in Cologne, Germany. A lusty, wax-laden, flaming candle with a Wiener Werkstätte-style shaft and a jagged pink halo is the focal point of the piece that symbolizes the film *La Maschera del Demonio*, while



a headless bird with three prominent tail feathers represents the movie *Nocturna*.

The woodcuts surround two vitrines displaying a dozen collaged books, which are presented as quirky, sculptural artifacts rather than as items to be perused. Meanwhile, in the back gallery, 20 dynamic typewriter drawings of film titles, Constructivist towers and vampires, keyed in black and red ink, playfully occupy a painted mural resembling the front of a display case. On the opposite wall hangs a woodcut poster for the show, depicting two bulging eyes—an apt metaphor for the thrill the work delivers.—Paul Laster