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#### SEPTEMBER 15, 2008

# TRAIL.

Dorothy Wickenden, Ryan Lizza, and Hendrik Hertzberg discuss Sarah Palin and the tone of the race.





### BLOGS

Hendrik Hertzberg sees how the Republican Convention changed Obama's chances.

Steve Coll remembers Tony Blair's patience after the London bombings.

The Cartoon Lounge: Russell Crowe returns, puppy eyes, sandwich sabotage, and more.

The Book Bench: Cool covers, Rivka Galchen on weather, and more.

#### GOINGS ON ABOUT TOWN

## ART

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TEXT SIZE: A I A I A

#### GALLERIES—CHELSEA

#### OLIVIER BLANCKART

Like an art-world Madame Tussaud, Blanckart crafts figures—out of paper and tape, not wax—and arranges them in stagy tableaux. In this show, titled "MOMA Don't Preach," Robert Ryman flies like a superhero out of a white painting, while Bruce Nauman reënacts his famous spitting fountain nearby. Nearly lifesize versions of the artists Robert Barry, Lawrence Weiner, Joseph Kosuth, and Douglas Huebler stand as if in a police lineup. Blanckart even fashions an art critic based on Paul Strand's famous photograph of a blind beggar, but the joke feels too shopworn to raise any hackles. Through Oct. 4. (P.P.O.W., 555 W. 25th St. 212-647-1044.)

#### ROE ETHRIDGE

Ethridge, whose photographs were in the recent Whitney Biennial, attributes the restless, magpie nature of his exhibitions to a "dread of conclusiveness." His latest show includes color pictures of a beach on an overcast day, a plate of oysters, and

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The September 22nd issue of The New Yorker.

#### MOST POPULAR

Ariel Levy: Cindy McCain's Ionesome role. Ryan Lizza: A problem for Sarah Palin.

Ryan Lizza. A prootein for Saran Faint.

Claudia Roth Pierpont: The meaning of Machiavelli.

#### CARTOONS

Slide show from the current issue.

Ten-second animations of classic cartoons.

#### THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL

The New Yorker's 2008 election coverage.

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