

Seonna Hong

'Animus'

Oliver Kamm/5BE

504 West 22nd Street, Chelsea

Through Dec. 3

Seonna Hong, a Los Angeles-based artist, won an Emmy this year for her animation work on an episode of the television cartoon series "My Life as a Teenage Robot." This delightful exhibition, her first solo show in New York, presents paintings made for a yet-to-be-published picture book, illustrating a story about a little girl and a vicious black dog.

Ms. Hong paints on wood panels in lucid colors in an expertly realized retro-modern style. The pudgy little girl appears in each picture in a short dress, white ankle socks and black Mary Jane shoes. She is bitten by the chained dog, buys a copy of "How to Make Friends" at a bookstore, communes with Disneylike animals in the woods, has a nightmare about the dog, whose giant head of folded paper protrudes from a dream bubble, and ultimately makes peace with the dog.

You would think that the cuteness would be hard to take, but the paintings are beautifully made and the imagery is mysteriously touching.

KEN JOHNSON