



VERSACE



## Revealing Influence

A new exhibit at the Delaware Art Museum offers six degrees (or fewer) of pop culture

Re-appropriation has long been an accepted practice—in music, in movies, and especially in art. The real fun comes in tracing lineages and connecting the dots of influence. (For the artists, the fun may lie in battling critics and dodging copyright-infringement lawsuits.) A new exhibit at the Delaware Art Museum—*Exposed! Revealing Sources in Contemporary Art*, on display now through Oct. 4—presents several of these relationships through paintings, photos, and prints, and the results are striking: Warhol's color-happy screens of Chairman Mao, based on a black-and-white portrait taken in 1966; photographer Heather Bennett's 2001 re-staging of a 1986 Versace ad (see above).

Also featured are Richard Prince's recent *Nurse* paintings, which re-imagine the secret lives of nurses from pulp novels as provocative, eerily one-dimensional stereotypes. Prince has dedicated his entire career to re-appropriated art—he gained notoriety in the 1970s for his photo collages—and he's proven influential to other types of artists. In 2004, Sonic Youth used Prince's *Nurse of Greenmeadow* as the cover of their album, *Sonic Nurse* (at left). They also incorporated three of his *Nurse* paintings into the liner notes. Sonic Youth aren't part of *Exposed!*, but two of Prince's nurses, *Navy Nurse* and *Runaway Nurse*, are, in addition to four of his other works. Catch a celebration of the exhibit on Friday, Sept. 11 as part of Art on the Town, and read more at the *Exposed!* blog, [exposed-exhibition.blogspot.com](http://exposed-exhibition.blogspot.com).

— Michael Pollock