

Petzel

Travis Diehl and Will Heinrich, “ Art Gallery Shows to See in May,” *The New York Times*, May 7, 2026.

The New York Times

Art Gallery Shows to See in May

CHELSEA

Emma Webster

Through June 6. Petzel, 520 West 25th Street; 212-680-9467, petzel.com.



Emma Webster, “Mother and Child,” 2026, oil on linen. Emma Webster, via Petzel, New York; Photo by Marten Elder

Emma Webster’s recent paintings feature chiaroscuro horses, deer and trees — pastoral subjects as old as art itself. But there’s something off about the rendering. The livestock seems lumpy, the perspective shallow, the lighting harsh and low angled.

In fact these pictures begin as physical dioramas and ceramic figurines, which the artist digitally scans and manipulates with 3-D modeling software, before outputting the source images that become her paintings. (A screen in the gallery plays a fly-through of some of these models composited into a polygonal wonderland.) The products of this work flow, which mixes high-tech and archaic media, are large, classically minded paintings, like the archly titled “Mother and Child,” depicting a cow and her calf. It almost feels sarcastic. *TRAVIS DIEHL*

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