

Petzel

Will Heinrich, "Goings On About Town: John Stezaker," *The New Yorker*, November 27, 2017.



GOINGS ON ABOUT TOWN

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ART GALLERIES—UPTOWN

John Stezaker

The brilliant English collagist got his start cutting up black-and-white Spanish *photo-romans*. The exciting examples here, from the nineteen-seventies, show him building up the possibilities of his fractured photographic proportions step by step. In some cases, simply lifting a picture from its original soft-core, soap-opera context is Stezaker's most significant intervention; note the untitled image of a woman blowing cigarette smoke, which the artist has tidily sliced between her lips and the cloud, both underscoring and severing the visual cliché. Stezaker's treatment of the books' cinematic love scenes is more aggressive. In "Enter. (Exit). The 3rd Person. VI," a kiss explodes into a glorious Cubist synecdoche for sex.

Through Jan. 6.

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