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Will Heinrich, "New York Galleries: What to See Right Now - Stephen Prina," *The New York Times*, October 2, 2019.

The New York Times

ART REVIEWS

New York Galleries: What to See Right Now

Paul Klee's late paintings; Anni Albers's rhythmic textiles; Sean Donnola's films and photographs; Marcus Jahmal's latest works; Stephen Prina's lithographs.

Stephen Prina

Through Oct. 26. Petzel Gallery, 35 East 67th Street, Manhattan; 212-680-9467, petzel.com.



An installation view of Stephen Prina's "English for Foreigners (abridged)," which features lithographs and a "listening station" with speakers. via Petzel Gallery

Stephen Prina's "[English for Foreigners \(abridged\)](#)" at Petzel Gallery, a partial reprise of a 2017 museum show in Naples, has a lot of separate parts. It's got about four dozen illustrations from Frederick Houghton's 1917 "Second Book in English for Foreigners in Evening Schools," which his Italian-born father studied in America. These range from a finely detailed portrait of George Washington to a simple diagram of an American place

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setting, and they're all excerpted from the book's text and reproduced as lithographs in Pantone's 2017 color of the year, "greenery." (Mr. Prina uses Pantone's annual choices as a way of dating his work.)

It's got orange and yellow frames embroidered with "Pete's Meat Can't Be Beat," the motto of the elder Prina's grocery store in Galesburg, Ill. There's also a "listening station" with speakers that play the artist's own covers of several apropos songs, including one associated with the Italian Resistance as well as the Fascist anthem that spurred his father to emigrate. Pietro Prina, or so the story goes, used to play clarinet in Piedmont until one night a gang of Blackshirts made a request that he couldn't safely decline, and it seemed like time to go.

Taken together, all these components make for a remarkably lucid definition of identity, whether personal, ethnic or national, Mr. Prina's or his father's: It's a ramshackle series of accidents and non sequiturs that strike you, somehow, with unitary force. *WILL HEINRICH*

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/10/02/arts/design/new-york-galleries-what-to-see-right-now.html>