

Petzel

Johanna Fateman, "Goings on About Town: Rodney McMillian," *The New Yorker*, April 27, 2020.



Johanna Fateman, “Goings on About Town: Rodney McMillian,” *The New Yorker*, April 17, 2020.



THE NEW YORKER

ART

Rodney McMillian

The heft and tactility of this Los Angeles artist’s tapestrylike pieces are not lost in the online edition of “Recirculating Goods,” his first exhibition at the Petzel gallery. Crocheted blankets—some formerly owned by the artist’s family and friends, others purchased in thrift stores—have been altered by applications of vibrant latex, transforming them into peculiarly American hybrids of landscape and Ab Ex. Some of these paintings incorporate price tags into their compositions. In “\$7.99: a blue moon,” a bright-yellow tab draws the eye up from the textile’s earthy tangerine and rust stripes to a dark, paint-stiffened expanse: a night sky looming above a small turquoise circle. Other works conjure marshlands, storms, and lava flows. Throughout, McMillian makes canny formal use of the geometric patterning of the afghans; in their intimate, handcrafted aura, he finds a deft foil to the heroics of the abstract sublime, which he both celebrates and undermines.

—*Johanna Fateman*

<https://www.newyorker.com/goings-on-about-town/art/rodney-mcmillian>