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Martha Schwendener, "2 Art Gallery Shows to Explore From Home," *The New York Times*, May 6, 2020.

The New York Times

ART REVIEWS

2 Art Gallery Shows to Explore From Home

Galleries and museums are getting creative about presenting work online during the coronavirus crisis. Here are two shows worth viewing virtually.



Rodney McMillian's "Untitled (landscape on blue afghan)," from 2018, in the show "Recirculating Goods." Rodney McMillian and Petzel, New York

Rodney McMillian

Through June 13. Petzel, petzel.com.

Rodney McMillian's paintings on found blankets, "[Recirculating Goods](https://petzel.com)" at [Petzel](https://petzel.com), continues the long conversation about the value of art made with

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cheap or salvaged materials — but also, surprisingly, the history of landscape painting. I saw the show in person before the lockdown but the online edition can give you an idea of this Los Angeles artist’s deft merging of the tactile, political and absurd.

The titles cement the landscape association. “Untitled (landscape on blue afghan),” from 2018, is made with latex and ink on a worn blue blanket and evokes rolling hills under a staccato-patterned sky. “Untitled (clouds)” (2019) turns celestial while “Untitled (setting sun)” (2019) uses a few dashes of paint to cut through concentric squares and suggest a horizon line.

Mr. McMillian’s paintings, which use a few quick brush strokes or paint-pours to create a work, playfully upend the academically created genre of “landscape.” They also have obvious precedents in the improvisatory, jazz-inspired look of African-American quilts, African textiles and [David Hammons’s sly sculptures](#) made with minimal materials.

The politics of Mr. McMillian’s objects in relation to their context was amplified when you saw these works on the tony Upper East Side. Online, however, the scale is obscured and the horizontally oriented paintings look almost like face masks, which have exploded in recent weeks as another ad hoc canvas and a repository for politics and creative expression.

MARTHA SCHWENDENER

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/05/06/arts/art-virtual-gallery-shows.html>