



ART

Nicola Tyson

This British-born painter’s vibrant self-portraits, which are featured prominently in her exhibition “Sense of Self,” at the Petzel gallery’s East Sixty-seventh Street space, all boast a telltale shock of red hair. It’s a long-standing motif in Tyson’s ever-evolving lawless strain of figuration. But the other forms of her new paintings—expressive composites evoking petals, tendons, energy fields, and draped volumes—defy identification. In one canvas, the artist appears with roughly sketched blue butterfly wings; in another, she becomes a mountainous blur beneath a lemon-lime sky. Tyson is a powerful colorist, but a drawing show (on the gallery’s Web site) reveals a flair for graphite, too. The silvery works on paper are both funny and moody, placing botanical and mammalian silhouettes in abstract vignettes and landscapes. Several time-lapse videos—intimate scenes of Tyson drafting her compositions from start to finish—document the same peculiar spontaneity that animates her larger paintings.

—*Johanna Fateman*

Sept. 2-Oct. 3

 Petzel
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