

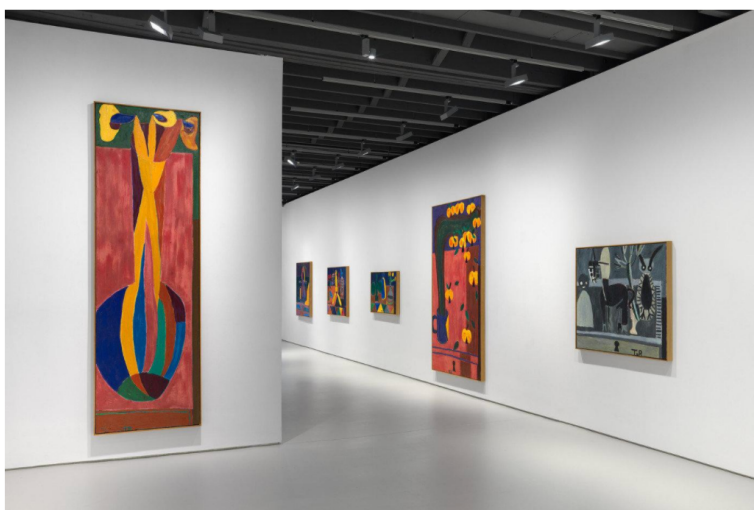
Paul Laster, "Reality Rendered Raw: 6 New York Solo Shows," *Art & Object*, September 25, 2020.

Art & Object

GALLERY | SEPTEMBER 25, 2020 | PAUL LASTER



Reality Rendered Raw: 6 New York Solo Shows



COURTESY ANTON KERN GALLERY

Installation view, *Tal R: Boy Walking and Cinnamon: Sculptures and Paintings*, Anton Kern Gallery, New York.

Over the past few years representational painting has been at the forefront of the gallery scene in both America and Europe. Although some artists prefer painting from life with a fine line, there are others who find a looser, rawer portrayal of reality more to their liking—and those are the artists we are focusing on today.

Rounding up six New York solo shows that highlight reality rendered raw, we take you around the town for a look at some of the best painting and sculpture being made today.

Petzel

Paul Laster, "Reality Rendered Raw: 6 New York Solo Shows," *Art & Object*, September 25, 2020.



Installation view, *Nicola Tyson: Sense of Self*, Petzel Gallery, New York.

Nicola Tyson: Sense of Self

Petzel

September 2 – October 3, 2020

A London-born artist living and working in Upstate New York, Nicola Tyson makes psychologically charged figurative paintings, drawings, and sculptures that border on the abstract. Presenting five new self-portraits and a suite of four still-life paintings of bouquets of flowers, her tenth exhibition with the gallery captures a sense of self that was informed by the isolation of the pandemic yet developed to reveal the strength she gained from it.

"The fact that the show is emphasizing self-portraits wasn't so much due to the pandemic but I kind of became glad that that was in an odd sort of way what I had decided to focus upon because we all needed to ground ourselves," the artist stated in an online video accompanying the show. "You know, we only had ourselves, so it became a more intense relationship."

Petzel

Paul Laster, “Reality Rendered Raw: 6 New York Solo Shows,” *Art & Object*, September 25, 2020.



COURTESY PETZEL GALLERY
Nicola Tyson, *Self-Portrait: Stripes*, 2020.

At times, a red mop of hair is the only thing that identifies the figures in her paintings as Tyson herself. Often looking more like hybrid animals or mutated plant life, the distorted figures float between the frightening and the surreal. The painting *Don't Look Back* portrays a perplexing persona that epitomizes what French poet [André Breton](#) called “convulsive beauty.” At one moment appearing to be an octopus-like creature approaching its prey, while at another glimpse it looks like a panicked person running away. Her canvas *Self-Portrait: Wings*, however, depicts an angelic character—albeit a dark angel—being lifted from a lower state into the unknown.

Big Yellow Self-Portrait resembles a giant gourd with a dress and wig, while *Self-Portrait: Stripes* presents a stylishly robed figure standing erect like a tree that's firmly planted in the ground. The smaller, bouquet paintings further blur the line between the supernatural and the real, with the strange arrangements of flowers taking on animalistic traits. Seemingly in sync with nature, Tyson creates boldly brushed canvases that unabashedly flaunt their graphic origins while maintaining a sense of mystery by rejecting any attempt to define fixed meanings for them.

<https://www.artandobject.com/news/reality-rendered-raw-6-new-york-solo-shows>