

Petzel

Will Heinrich, “5 Art Gallery Shows to See Right Now,” *The New York Times*, December 9, 2020.

The New York Times

5 Art Gallery Shows to See Right Now

Thornton Dial’s “Flying Tiger,” Thomas Eggerer’s protest painting, Harriet Korman’s brilliant canvases, Sheida Soleimani’s portraits of Iranian-U.S. relations, and Etel Adnan’s tapestries.

Thomas Eggerer

Through Dec. 19. Petzel, 35 East 67th Street, Manhattan. 212-680-9467; petzel.com.



Thomas Eggerer's "The Massacre" (2020), oil on canvas. Thomas Eggerer and Petzel

Thomas Eggerer’s new show, “Corridor,” is centered on an enormous canvas of the same name, an aerial view of a protest just over 10 feet square. Scores of identically dressed men and women drift down a six-lane highway flanked by bike paths and crosswalks. There are a few allusions to real events — pink umbrellas might bring Women’s Marches to mind, figures kneeling could be saying, “Hands up, don’t shoot.” But the banners they carry are all blank.

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The Brooklyn-based German painter made six smaller works, too, most of them glimpses from below of people sitting on scaffolding. Another, “The Massacre,” shows a neatly spaced arrangement of half-eaten hamburgers and glistening ketchup blobs descending like characters in an early Macintosh screen saver.

The larger painting has some of the same clunky screen-saver charm. It’s clear, at first glance, that it’s built from a limited number of elements arranged according to a limited set of rules. So you might suppose it’s a picture of human beings as impotent atoms in a sea of forces beyond their control, even their most passionate demonstrations as formulaic as the weather. You might even consider the buoyant breadth and receding perspective, the white placards popping from across the room, as evidence of how easy it is to fool the eye. But I think they’re evidence that even the simplest building blocks, if you put them together the right way, can make magic.

WILL HEINRICH

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/12/09/arts/5-art-gallery-shows-to-see-right-now.html>