

# Petzel

## The New York Times

### What to See in Galleries in October

CHELSEA

#### Austin Martin White

Through Oct. 18. Petzel, 520 West 25th Street; 212-680-9467,  
[petzel.com](http://petzel.com).



Austin Martin White, *Composite Ruin 1 (after Piranesi)*, 2025, acrylic medium, pigment, rubber, spray paint, vinyl, paper, screen mesh. via Austin Martin White and Petzel, New York

Austin Martin White squeezes art history through a screen. He makes collages of mythological scenes of massacres, idylls and lamentations by expressing rubbery paint through sheets of coarse mesh. The result is both pixelated and tripelike.

Some of the tragedies on view are airy and earth toned. Others, in a sulfuric red and purple palette on black screens, depict arches, columns and rubble drawn from Piranesi's 18th-century etchings of classical ruins. The paintings are theatrical, like backdrops — more than nine feet tall — yet their cartoonish paint-by-numbers quality softens their pretentiousness. The figures have O-shaped mouths, like Gumby. The landscapes evoke rotting grandeur, but also hope that our era is worth remembering. *TRAVIS DIEHL*

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