

GLADSTONE GALLERY

“Goings On About Town,” *The New Yorker*, February 2018

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ART GALLERIES—UPTOWN

Amy Sillman

The New York painter, who is also known for her forays into sculpture, animation, and zine-making (her latest issue is available by the door for a dollar), seems to confine herself enthusiastically to a single medium here, but pay attention: she’s still blurring lines. More than two dozen works on paper are installed single file around the town-house rooms, their frames almost touching. (A larger unframed work is wryly pinned above the fireplace mantel.) The dense abstractions have both speed and spontaneity, with grand swipes of the brush and squirrely black lines, but also a seductive trickery, with transparent screen-printed layers functioning as scratchy backgrounds, jagged veils, or both. It’s difficult to discern which gestures are painted and which are printed—until a downcast cartoon face or a sneakered foot appears again in a neighboring drawing, the charming glimmers of figuration that are Sillman’s calling card.