

# GLADSTONE GALLERY

Will Heinrich, "What to See in New York Art Galleries This Week," *The New York Times*, June 13, 2018

## The New York Times

### Carroll Dunham

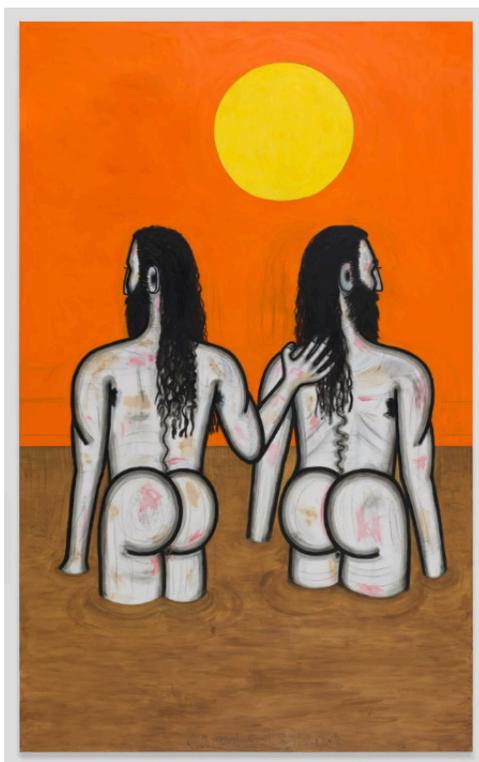
Through June 22. Gladstone Gallery, 515 West 24th Street, Manhattan; 212-206-9300, [gladstonegallery.com](http://gladstonegallery.com).



Carroll Dunham's "Anv Dav" (2017) at the Gladstone Gallery. Gladstone Gallery

The 10 extraordinary paintings in [Carroll Dunham's latest show](#), oversized graphic cartoons of naked primordial wrestlers under purple or hot pink skies, are as immediately and indelibly legible as electrified billboards.

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Mr. Dunham's "Mud Men," from 2017. Gladstone Gallery

In "Any Day," the best and busiest of them, a wrestler catches his doppelgänger in a headlock, flipping him off the sinuous green hill, reminiscent of Hokusai's famous wave, that's both their ground and their background. Bowling-pin-shaped birds, gargantuan flowers, trees as confidently cursive as Charles Schultz drawings, and other postmodern figurative ideograms crowd around them, filling the canvas from edge to edge. A statuesque gray nude stands braiding her hair in the ocean beyond the hill.

It's a significant feat of visual engineering for a painting whose every constituent piece, from the losing wrestler's circular buttocks and foreshortened legs to the victor's L-shaped foot, from the matte yellow sun and haze of miscellaneous pencil marks to the flat, overlapping flowers, occupies its own independent perspective. And it has ramifications for content as well as form: It suggests a world in which order is only a persistent illusion, and men are loose bundles of disconnected impulses ceaselessly occupied with wrestling themselves. *WILL HEINRICH*