GLADSTONE GALLERY

Andrea K. Scott, "At the Galleries," The New Yorker, June 18, 2018

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AT THE GALLERIES



Carroll Dunham is one of the best living American painters. He is also, almost defiantly, one of the weirdest. In his latest show, at the Gladstone gallery through June 16, Dunham continues to wrestle with his one true subject-painting itself-in Crayola-bright pictures of cavemen, going head to head in the wild in Greco-Roman-style combat. ("Mud Men," shown here, is the only hint of détente.) Dunham's male nudes are as anatomically, if cartoonishly, frank as his previous depictions of female bathers, which challenged Gustave Courbet's "Origin of the World" to a duel. The figures remain at once insistently flat (like the linen they're made on) and allusively dimensional, an antic update of Cézanne's advice to "deal with nature by means of the cylinder, the sphere, and the cone."-Andrea K. Scott

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