

MATTHEW MARKS GALLERY

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The New York Times

What to See in N.Y.C. Galleries Right Now

By **Travis Diehl, Roberta Smith, Jason Farago and Will Heinrich**

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Want to see new art in New York this weekend? Start in TriBeCa to see works by Yevgeniya Baras and Julia Kunin. Then head to the Lower East Side for Rindon Johnson's tribute to Cuvier's beaked whales. And don't miss Sturtevant's mind-blowing mini-retrospective in Chelsea, as well as a little taste of Capri at Gagosian's Upper East Side location.

CHELSEA

Sturtevant

Through Oct. 22. Matthew Marks, 522 West 22nd Street, Manhattan. 212-243-0200; matthewmarks.com.



Sturtevant's "Haring Tag July 15 1981," from 1985, sumi ink and acrylic on canvas. via Matthew Marks Gallery

Heinrich, Will. "What to See in N.Y.C. Galleries Right Now: Sturtevant." *The New York Times*, September 28, 2022.

Elaine Sturtevant (1924-2014), who worked under the mononym Sturtevant, made copies of other artists' work, but insisted that she wasn't an appropriation artist — and she was right. In this mind-blowing mini-retrospective, which includes a gray "Jasper Johns" number painting, a small "Keith Haring," and two "Robert Gober" sinks buried in dimly lit AstroTurf, authorship is the least of the concerns. It does come up, but only as a subset of the larger question, "What is an idea?"

The "Johns" and "Haring," though both perfectly recognizable, aren't exact. It isn't quite Haring's line, and the surface of the number painting isn't as labored as Johns would have had it. That is, I think — each piece made me question my own memory of what a "Johns" or a "Haring" was in the first place and what criteria I used for recognizing them. (Johns, Haring and Gober are all mentioned in the pieces' titles, but that only makes it all the more trippy.)

A 2010 video, also by Sturtevant, compiles snippets from two online archives, the BBC Motion Gallery and iStock, to show a running tiger, a human sprinter, an opening flower and other examples of life in motion to the accompaniment of a pulsing computer beat. When the tiger looked into the camera, its body undulating, its face still, I forgot for a moment which was the art work and which was me. *WILL HEINRICH*