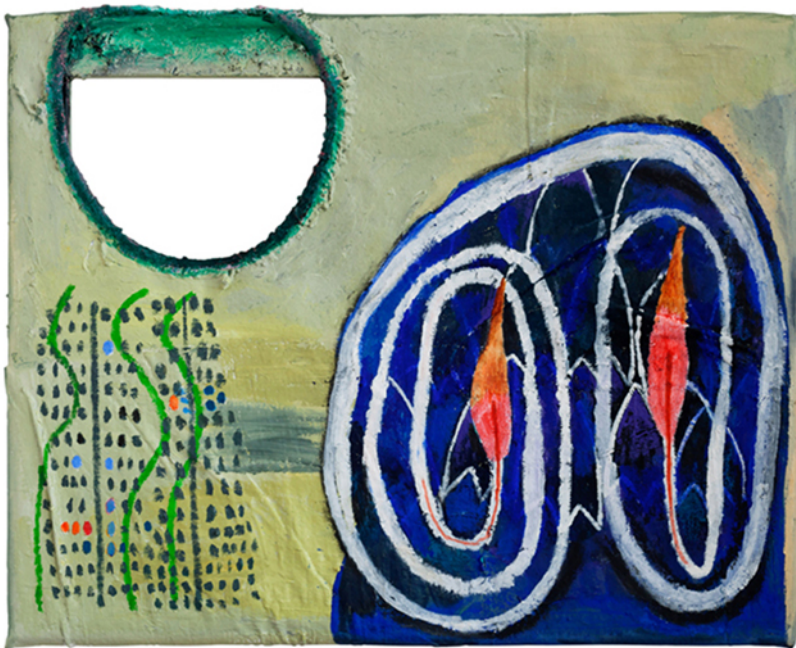


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ART & DESIGN

What to See in New York Art Galleries This Week

By MARTHA SCHWENDENER, KAREN ROSENBERG and KEN JOHNSON SEPT. 22, 2016



Yevgeniya Baras's "Untitled" (2016), an oil on canvas, at Nicelle Beauchene. Courtesy of the artist and Nicelle Beauchene Gallery

'All Inside of Itself, Close'

Yevgeniya Baras

*Nicelle Beauchene Gallery
327 Broome Street
Lower East Side
Through Oct. 9*

With their runelike markings and their strange lumps and bumps, Yevgeniya Baras's paintings claim a right to privacy. Naturally, this cloistered quality — echoed in the title of her latest solo — makes them deeply intriguing.

Ms. Baras, who is also a founder of the Lower East Side gallery Regina Rex, seems to align herself with early-20th-century American visionaries — in particular, Forrest Bess, with whom she shares an interest in small-scale canvases and intensely personal symbolism, and Arthur Dove, whose mystical landscapes and deep, jewel-toned palette come to mind. Some of the works in this show (her first at this gallery) experiment with a slightly bigger scale but continue to use a Bess-like vocabulary of amoebic splotches and short parallel marks, given added interest by Ms. Baras's stuffed, dented and punctured surfaces and by the little talismanic objects glued to them (slivers of wood, scatterings of pebbles).

In one work (untitled, like the rest), a deep-blue double spiral on the lower right portion of a celery-hued canvas balances out a large spherical hole on the upper left. The exposed section of stretcher bar, painted viridian, becomes part of the composition. On the bottom left are neat columns of tiny, stabbing brush strokes, which make up one of many evocations of ancient writing systems.

Enhancing the work's hermetic, coded sensibility is its resistance to the camera, which may pick up the strong colors and graphic lines but passes over the subtle topographical shifts and embedded treasures (which include human hair and family bedsheets, according to a news release). Ms. Baras reveals a lot about her inspirations and her process while still holding something back.

KAREN ROSENBERG

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