

ART GALLERIES—DOWNTOWN

“Elaine, Let’s Get the Hell Out of Here”

The title of this eclectic show refers to an anecdote, relayed by Elaine de Kooning, about her fellow-painter Joan Mitchell’s response when a man approached them at a cocktail party, in the early sixties, and asked, “What do you women artists think?” The show’s curator, Ashton Cooper, unites works by thirteen artists spanning sixty years, from de Kooning’s portrait “Edwin Denby” (1960) and an untitled blue-and-red pastel scrawl (1991) by Mitchell, to two diffident figure drawings (2007) by Ralph Lemon, who is better known as a choreographer. Highlights made this year include Sheila Pepe’s sprightly installation of bright-blue rope, titled “On to the Hot Mess,” Deborah Anzinger’s not quite figurative painting, and Vanessa Thill’s brownish, T-shaped “Petro-Queen II,” made using industrial products on paper, which feels like a relic from the future. Cumulatively, the works convey a gestural élan that is both formally rooted and idiosyncratic.