

The New York Times

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

TRIBECA

Richard Bosman

Through July 29.

Nicelle Beauchene Gallery, 7 Franklin Place, Manhattan;
212-375-8043, nicellebeauchene.com.

Richard Bosman's artworks in "Painters Painting" fuse the workmanlike efficiency of a billboard painter with the elegant cunning of a chess master. In "Museum Wall" (2015), each of the 34 painted copies of iconic works, from Frida Kahlo to El Greco, is casually pinned on a gray rectangle painted across the rear gallery's wall. On Instagram they will look like fine renderings, but here you'll see how each is a loose jotting where this Hudson Valley-based artist puts down the likeness and then proceeds. Next move.

Two paintings of doors — "Giorgio Morandi Door" and "Piet Mondrian Door," both 2016 — are attached at their right edges to opposite walls, demarcating either end of a central corridor. Within, two paintings, "Van Gogh Palette" and "Miro Palette," both 2022, each feature oversized thumb holes and wittily play up the wet-on-wet impasto of grand abstraction. Nearby, in a clever bit of curatorial arranging, painted reproductions of the backs of canvases, as in "Picasso - 5.3.28" (2016), hang diagonally opposite from the actual verso of the door paintings, where Bosman's own scrawled surname seems to read: "Boom."

In the front gallery, next to the in-progress canvas in "Rothko's Studio" (2011), see how the lines of the floorboards disappear in an overpainted brown quadrilateral above the first step of the ladder. A glitch left in, and why not? It's just painting — brilliant, knowing, joyful.



Richard Bosman's "Rothko's Studio," 2011, in his show "Painters Painting," courtesy Richard Bosman and Nicelle Beauchene Gallery, New York

— JOHN VINCLER