

ART & DESIGN

What to See in New York Art Galleries This Week

By ROBERTA SMITH, WILL HEINRICH, MARTHA SCHWENDENER and JASON FARAGO JUNE 15, 2017

ANDREA JOYCE HEIMER

Through June 25. Nicelle Beauchene, 327 Broome Street, Manhattan; 212-375-8043, nicellebeauchene.com.

Andrea Joyce Heimer makes small acrylic paintings of scenes from her adolescence and gives them long, narrative titles, which have been written directly onto the walls at Nicelle Beauchene gallery. These titles could pass for flash fiction, but the paintings, with their marbled colors, eccentric drawing style and razor-sharp edges, have an unfiltered excess of detail. What holds them together is their insight into the incongruity of early memories. Here, a house may retain its suggestion of depth while living people freeze in the midst of typical moments, and incidents linked by meandering chains of association all seem to happen at once.

None of the pieces in “Storied,” her show at this gallery, quite hit home as intended, because none are equally strong in both word and image. But many of the words and images can stand alone.

The best painting is of a meteor shower over a baseball game in Great Falls, Mont., where the artist was born: Beefy, half-naked players with tiny heads look up from a diamond that resembles a Roman galley, gazing at plunging orange tails in an oversaturated sky. And the most incisive title, which describes a picture of four naked men destroying a topsy-turvy house, with trailing potted vines and M. C. Escher stairs, goes like this: “The Johnson Boys Used to Set Off Fireworks in Their Mother’s Home, Which Was Too Nice for Them, While We, Who Were Too Nice for the Johnson Boys, Pined Over Them Fiercely From Afar. They Didn’t Know We Existed.”

WILL HEINRICH



Andrea Joyce Heimer's 2017 painting of a meteor shower over a baseball game in Great Falls, Mont., on view at the Nicelle Beauchene Gallery. Courtesy of the artist and Nicelle Beauchene Gallery