

The New Criterion

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Gallery chronicle

by *[James Panero](#)*

On “Sideshow Nation II: At the Alamo” at Sideshow Gallery, Brooklyn; “Paperazzi III” at Janet Kurnatowski Gallery, Brooklyn; “Clouds, organized by Adam Simon” at Lesley Heller Workspace, New York; “Eight Painters” at Kathryn Markel Fine Arts, New York; “Lori Ellison” at McKenzie Fine Art, New York; “Angelina Gualdoni: Held in Place, Light in Hand” at Asya Geisberg Gallery, New York; and “Mel Kendrick: Water Drawings” at David Nolan Gallery, New York.

It stands to reason that the real action these days is where the small stuff is: with smaller work that can be made more easily, collected, exhibited together, shared among artists, and transported for the cost of a subway swipe. The New Year welcomes two annual group shows to Brooklyn that present the smaller scale at its best, by bringing many of the talented artists in the New York studio scene together. With over 500 paintings and sculpture now at Sideshow Gallery in Williamsburg and over 100 works on paper at Janet Kurnatowski Gallery in Greenpoint, these exhibitions offer an unparalleled overview of a vital network of artists that largely gets overlooked by the museums and mainstream press.^{[1](#)}

Both exhibitions follow a similar program, with work arranged salon-style, and with an eye to the rhythm of the walls rather than the names on the labels. They also share many overlapping artists; both gallery owners, artists themselves, are exhibited in each other’s shows. The broad scope of each of the exhibitions means that they have evolved from a single vision into a crowdsourced installation, where artists invite other artists and the display takes on a life of its own. The result works out because each gallery started with a core group of impressive

painters and sculptors—largely those who came of age in the Soho studio scene in the 1960s and 1970s, such as Thornton Willis, Peter Reginato, Joan Thorne, and Tom Evans. Here they connect to younger artists in the outer boroughs and across the country working through similar strategies. The worthy artists are too numerous to mention, but let me single out a few I spotted at both exhibitions: Loren Munk, Kim Uchiyama, Chris Martin, Dee Shapiro, Dana Gordon, Louisa Waber, Gary Petersen, Lauren Bakoian, Louise Sloane, Anne Russinof, Joanne Freedman, Elizabeth Riley, Kylie Heidenheimer, and Carol Salmanson.



Deborah Brown, Cloud , 2013; oil on panel; 11 x 17 inches