

Medium Web
Date 16.May.2018
Event Solo Exhibition
Web address <https://www.nytimes.com/2018/05/16/arts/design/what-to-see-in-new-york-art-galleries-this-week.html>

Publication The New York Times
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ART & DESIGN

The New York Times

What to See in New York Art Galleries This Week

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May 16, 2018

Al Freeman and Marina Rheingantz

Through June 2. Bortolami, 39 Walker Street, Manhattan; 212-727-2050, bortolamigallery.com.



"Pisador" (2017-18), a painting by the Brazilian artist Marina Rheingantz at Bortolami in Manhattan, Bortolami, New York

These reflexes may be activated by the promising New York debut of the Brazilian artist Marina Rheingantz, whose paintings recalibrate the work of Cy Twombly and Anselm Kiefer into large, semiabstract landscapes full of ambiguous forms and details that are deeply dystopian in mood. They're beautiful wastelands writ small, delicately dotted with suggestions of trash; ruined structures and abandoned encampments; occasional tiny flags or palm trees; and enticing little pileups of paint. The nocturnal "Jojola" could be grounds once used for military maneuvers, horse jumping or a dilapidated carnival. "Jorro" evokes fountains run slightly amok. The most convincing works — "Jojola," as well as "Varzea" and the snowy "Pisador" — are expansive fields that Ms. Rheingantz paints with unusual delicacy and small brush strokes. These three paintings confirm that while all is not well with the world, the artist's deliberate avoidance of bravura implies that there is always another way to do things.

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