

Thomas Erben Gallery



February 2015

"LOOKING BACK: THE NINTH WHITE COLUMNS ANNUAL"

White Columns

The four young women behind Cleopatra's, a Brooklyn experimental space with a historical bent, have mounted a shrewd recapitulation of last year's strongest exhibitions in New York City. Three acerbic cartoons by Sigmar Polke from 1964 are the oldest works included, but throughout the show the curators have mixed generations to impressive effect: Carrie Mae Weems's photographs of Malian architecture sit alongside a bullet-riddled collage by Anne Doran; a leporello by Etel Adnan, who turns ninety this month, shares a gallery with a bold diptych in the form of Stars of David painted by the younger Mike Cloud. There's also a long video program, and two are worth waiting around for: David Hartt's delicate black-and-white portrait of debt-wracked contemporary Athens, and Maria Lassnig's autobiographical cantata, featuring a bewildering number of costume changes. Through Feb. 21.

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