

THE  
NEW YORKER

MAY 12, 2014

ART



**Dona Nelson**

A studio warrior for New York painting since the sixties, Nelson has plowed through several abstract and figurative manners on the way to a present state that might be termed Post-Exasperation. Seen here (and to striking effect in the current Whitney Biennial) are big canvases not so much painted as assaulted with acidly colorful acrylic washes, clots, and peels and with puddles of gelatinous acrylic medium. Here and there, collaged clumps of cheesecloth and thickets of colored and stitched string join the fray. Five of the works are freestanding, painted on both sides. Nelson gives notice that she will do anything, short of burning down her house, to bully painting into freshly spluttering eloquence. Through May 17. (Erben, 526 W. 26th St. 212-645-8701.)