GAGOSIAN GALLERY

Goings On About Town: Art

Ellen Gallagher

This is Gallagher's first show in New York in more than five years, and it's interesting to see how this innately elegant draftsperson tries to rough her ideas up in an attempt to free herself from her talented hand. The most interesting works here are large-scale paintings, which pay homage to Gallagher's influences—Agnes Martin is high on the list—as she further abstracts or fragments the racial narratives with which she's associated. (One finds more than enough of Mark Bradford's style in a piece titled "Greasy," while Kara Walker's silhouettes have made their mark in another work, "IGBT.") Indeed, in one piece, Gallagher treats color as little more than a smear. But far from abandoning her chief concerns, black women and Western ideas of beauty in an industrialized world, in this transitional show the artist is moving more and more toward understanding why her themes interest her beyond their intellectual and political fashionability—and why they should interest us. Through Feb. 26.

Date: Through February 26

Venue: Gagosian—555 W. 24th St.

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External URL:gagosian.com