

## GAGOSIAN

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### David Ebony's Top 10 New York Gallery Shows This Winter

*Here's what to see before spring.*

David Ebony



*Katharina Grosse, Untitled, 2016. ©Katharina Grosse and VG Bild-Kunst, Bonn.  
Photo by Jens Ziehe. Courtesy Gagosian Gallery.*

Katharina Grosse at Gagosian Gallery, through March 11.

It is something of a surprise that Katharina Grosse is making her New York City gallery debut, at Gagosian no less, with large, conventional-format paintings on canvas, averaging over ten-by-eight feet. She has always created 2-D works, but the internationally renowned German artist, based in Berlin, is best known for enormous painted environments, sometimes employing cranes and industrial spray-paint equipment to produce vast installations that merge the disciplines of painting, sculpture, and architecture. Last year, her red- and magenta-painted derelict beach structure, *Rockaway!*, caused a stir, and inspired awe in those who made the pilgrimage to its site-specific, Brooklyn seaside location. Filling a small side gallery at Gagosian, one of her painted cast metal sculptures appears as a fanciful piece of driftwood that might well have been part of the *Rockaway!* installation.

Grosse's decision to present here, almost exclusively, paintings in the heroic scale of Abstract Expressionism, indicates that the artist likely conceived the exhibition as a direct dialogue with the New York School, an homage to its towering contribution to international painting, and, on a personal level, to its influence on her own art. Considered in the context of those formidable art-historical terms, Grosse's effort succeeds on many levels. She engages the hallowed, painterly idioms and rhythms of Pollock and Rothko, while addressing the subtle nuances of layering, spatial relationships, and atmosphere associated with the work of Color Field painters like Morris Louis and Helen Frankenthaler. Each of the sixteen untitled paintings by Grosse on view, all 2016, encompasses a dramatic interaction of color and gesture, a play of depth and perspective that pushes the boundaries of what abstract painting can do, or can be.