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The Woman With the Power Sprayer? She's a German Artist

Randy Kennedy





Untitled works by Katharina Grosse from 2016. Credit Katharina Grosse und VG Bild-Kunst, Bonn 2016, via Gagosian

When the German painter Katharina Grosse talks about working large, it's rarely metaphorical. In New York alone, she has made the Metrotech Commons in Brooklyn into an exploded technicolor landscape, filled with jagged forms that suggested an Abstract Expressionist canvas turned into scree, and she transformed a derelict Army building in the Rockaways in Queens into a magenta-and-white-streaked waterside mirage, using a hydraulic lift and power sprayer to do the job. ("The most interesting thing about the spraying from a big industrial gun," Ms. Grosse said, "is that it makes you so much bigger.") Now she arrives on perhaps the biggest commercial stage in the New York art world. Her first gallery show in the city, at Gagosian in Chelsea, opening Thursday, Jan. 19, features work from the past year that continues to blur the distinction between two and three dimensions, borne of the conviction, as she once said, that "paint has to be voluminous if it is to achieve presence." (Through March 11; gagosian.com.)