



GOINGS ON ABOUT TOWN

Week of October 21, 2019

ART

“Embodiment”

The Chicago-based adept Pope.L is a triple threat in New York this fall, with concurrent shows at the Whitney and MOMA and a recent Public Art Fund performance for which some hundred and fifty participants put their bodies through punishing paces, re-creating one of his legendary mile-long crawls. Pope.L's Manhattan gallery pays homage to his body-centric concerns in this dynamic exhibition, which combines text works from his series “Skin Sets” with paintings by a trio of young rising stars: Jonathan Lyndon Chase, Cheyenne Julien, and Tschabalala Self. Chase's bristling language-and-image assemblages of spray paint, acrylic, marker, glitter, and oil stick on canvas are the closest in spirit to Pope.L's politically pointed capers—and not simply because both artists goof around with green skin to invoke ideas of racial difference. Julien is a deft portraitist whose five-foot-high canvas “Can't Go Out, Can't Stay In” captures the FOMO tensions between meditative seclusion and alienation as beautifully as its Bonnard-esque interior contrasts a magenta rug and a pistachio bedspread. Self's striking female figures integrate painted canvas and collaged fabrics with a pictorial logic that suggests a collaboration between Hannah Höch and Jacob Lawrence.

—*Andrea K. Scott*