

T The New York Times Style Magazine

The T List: What to Visit, Eat and Know About This Week

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SEE THIS

An Artist Crawls Through Downtown New York



The artist Pope.L in New York in 1991, performing one of his famous “crawl” pieces, which involve him laboriously inching through the streets on his stomach. Credit “Tompkins Square Crawl (an Extension of How Much Is That Nigger in the Window),” 1991 © Pope.L, courtesy of the artist and Mitchell-Innes & Nash, N.Y.

By M.H. Miller

Since the 1970s, the artist known as Pope.L has made works that explore racism, poverty, class inequality and consumerism in ways that are sometimes satirical, often biting, but always

MITCHELL-INNES & NASH

strangely moving. He is best identified by his “crawls,” in which he drags himself, positioned on his stomach — occasionally dressed in a business suit or as Superman, either alone or with a large group of participants — along the path of a city street. His most ambitious performance of this nature will be on Saturday in New York City: More than 100 people will crawl a one-and-a-half-mile-long route from the West Village to Union Square, passing through the arch of Washington Square Park. (Anyone can watch along the route.) This will be the first part of a trio of complementary exhibitions this fall called “Pope.L: Instigation, Aspiration, Perspiration.” Also on the docket: On Oct. 10, the Whitney Museum will debut a Pope.L installation called “Choir” in its lobby gallery, and later next month, a retrospective of works that spans the years 1978 to 2001 will open at the Museum of Modern Art. This series is the highest profile exposure yet for an artist who has spent much of his career with his eye meticulously trained on the gutter.