

# MITCHELL-INNES & NASH



THE NEW YORKER

## GOINGS ON ABOUT TOWN

ART

**Martha Rosler**

Dec. 8-Jan. 21

[Mitchell-Innes & Nash](#)

534 W. 26th St.

Chelsea

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[Website](#)

Videos, photo collages, and installation works from the sixties and seventies convey the restless invention of this feminist Conceptualist's early career, as well as the tumult of the era. A partial reprise of Rosler's 2018 retrospective, at the Jewish Museum, this dense exhibition shows the artist honing her incisive, acerbic strain of media critique, informed by the antiwar, anti-imperialist stance of the women's movement. "House Beautiful: The Colonies," a collage series from 1969-72, juxtaposes imagery of the space race with spreads from home-décor magazines, dramatizing the twin forces of American expansionism and consumer culture. "Diaper Pattern," from 1973-75, is a hanging grid of cloth diapers, each bearing a handwritten quote reflecting the dehumanizing, racist rhetoric fuelling the Vietnam War. In this deceptively airy work—as in Rosler's iconic performance-based films "The Semiotics of the Kitchen," from 1975, and "Martha Rosler Reads Vogue," from 1985—the artist zeroes in on connections between gendered labor and geopolitics. Sadly, though the images from the vintage women's magazine appear dated, Rosler's message is as relevant now as ever.

—*Johanna Fateman*