

# MITCHELL-INNES & NASH

**The New York Times**

## What to See in N.Y.C. Galleries in March

Want to see new art in the city? Check out Karen Kilimnik whimsical paintings or Ray Materson's astonishing embroideries.

By Max Lakin, Jillian Steinhauer, Travis Diehl and John Vincler | March 2, 2023

### TRIBECA

#### Gordon Matta-Clark and Pope.L

Through April 1. 52 Walker, 52 Walker Street, Manhattan; 212-727-1961, 52walker.com.



Gordon Matta-Clark's "Conical Intersect," (1975), left, and "Bingo X Ninths" (1974), right, depicting poetic building demolitions, are projected onto the gallery walls, as if the walls themselves are being cut through. Estate of Gordon Matta-Clark/Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York; via 52 Walker, New York

A cartoonish cacophony governs the inspired pairing of Gordon Matta-Clark and Pope.L in the show "Impossible Failures" at Zwirner's revamped downtown space. Matta-Clark, of course — who died in 1978 at just 35 — famously, elegantly sliced and severed condemned buildings, including in the South Bronx. He was also among the artists who homesteaded SoHo in the 1970s, and his work's presence in 52 Walker feels pointed. Three videos (transferred from films) depicting cuts in progress are projected onto three walls; where Matta-Clark and crew bore through Parisian flats in documentation of "Conical Intersect," it's almost like they're sawing into the gallery.

Pope.L actually has: The first work visitors see is a one-foot-diameter circle hacked through the wall of the building's foyer, comically puncturing one of the Matta-Clark projections on the other side and deflating the solemn white cube. Known for abject performances, especially a series of epic

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“crawls” around New York dressed as a businessman (or Superman), Pope.L brings a sardonic sense of urbanism to Matta-Clark’s poetic one. A new installation by Pope.L, “Vigilance a.k.a. Dust Room,” sits at the gallery’s center: A white box of two-by-fours and plywood, rigged with shop fans on timers, sounds like a choir of leaf blowers. Two small windows on one side reveal its dim interior thick with whirling foam pellets, light and dark. It’s powerful and unhinged and overbuilt — a monument to the entropy of the postindustrial city, and the tenuous dance of its inhabitants.

*TRAVIS DIEHL*



Pope.L's "Vigilance a.k.a. Dust Room," from 2023, at 52 Walker. Credit...via 52 Walker, New York and Mitchell-Innes & Nash, New York