

What to See in N.Y.C. Galleries Right Now

By **Holland Cotter, Roberta Smith, Arthur Lubow, Martha Schwendener and Blake Gopnik**
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Want to see new art this weekend? Start in the East Village with the Swiss Institute's annual architecture and design series. Then head to the Lower East Side to check out Sascha Braunig's Neo-Surrealist paintings. And don't miss Joana Choumali's embellished photographs of her native Ivory Coast.

Newly Reviewed

EAST VILLAGE

Mungo Thomson

Through April 16. Karma, 22 East 2nd Street, Manhattan; 212-390-8290, karmakarma.org.



A screenshot from Mungo Thomson's video "Volume 5. Sideways Thought" (2020-22). Mungo Thomson and Karma

Mungo Thomson's "Time Life" at Karma is a thrilling accomplishment, adding a new chapter to the long conversation about photographs, mechanical reproduction and ways of seeing. It may not be for everyone, though: I watched all seven rapidly flashing videos, made with images scanned from vintage instructional manuals, catalogs and cookbooks, and I left the gallery feeling like I'd just ridden a high-speed roller coaster.

The premise of "Time Life" is simple: sifting through a vast, sometimes absurd archive of images and presenting them at breakneck speed. "Volume 2. Animal Locomotion" (2012-22) shows people demonstrating various forms of exercise, accompanied by a pulsing track by the electronic music pioneer Laurie Spiegel. "Volume 6. The Working End" (2021-22) features fingers tying knots and the percussion of the avant-garde composer Pauline Oliveros. The show's opus might be "Volume 5. Sideways Thought" (2020-22), with an original score by Ernst Karel, which animates the expressive but inert bronze and marble sculptures of Auguste Rodin.

Thomson's project draws fruitful comparisons to other artists and theorists: Eadweard Muybridge, Gerhard Richter, Arthur Jafa and Richard Prince, who, as a young artist, actually clipped publication images at Time-Life Inc. There are also echoes of Aby Warburg's 1920s "Mnemosyne Atlas" and André Malraux's "Museum Without Walls" (1949). What Thomson's adds is a hydraulic-launch speed: We are not "supposed" to look at images this fast. And yet, the jarring somatic experience of "Time Life" offers a chiropractic antidote to scrolling aimlessly on your phone, languidly consuming pictures and casting a few of your own into the universe of technical images.

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