

# Art in America

EXHIBITIONS THE LOOKOUT



## Steve DiBenedetto

at Derek Eller ,  
through Apr. 18  
615 West 27th Street

In this exhibition, large oils on linen share the walls with a generous selection of small paintings, which offer as much compositional complexity, ingenuity and grit as their grander counterparts. Although the work employs an abstract space, there are suggestions of recognizable imagery, such as the helicopter and octopus (persistent motifs for the artist) in *The Bell Notes* (2008-15). At nearly 10 feet wide, the painting evokes an epic tale of intrigue in the dense and allusive manner of a Thomas Pynchon novel. A similar sense of specific (if encoded) meaning pervades the pockets of linear incident in *Seven Grain Satan* (2010-15), where certain markings bring to mind the figures of the bride and the bachelors in Duchamp's *Large Glass*.