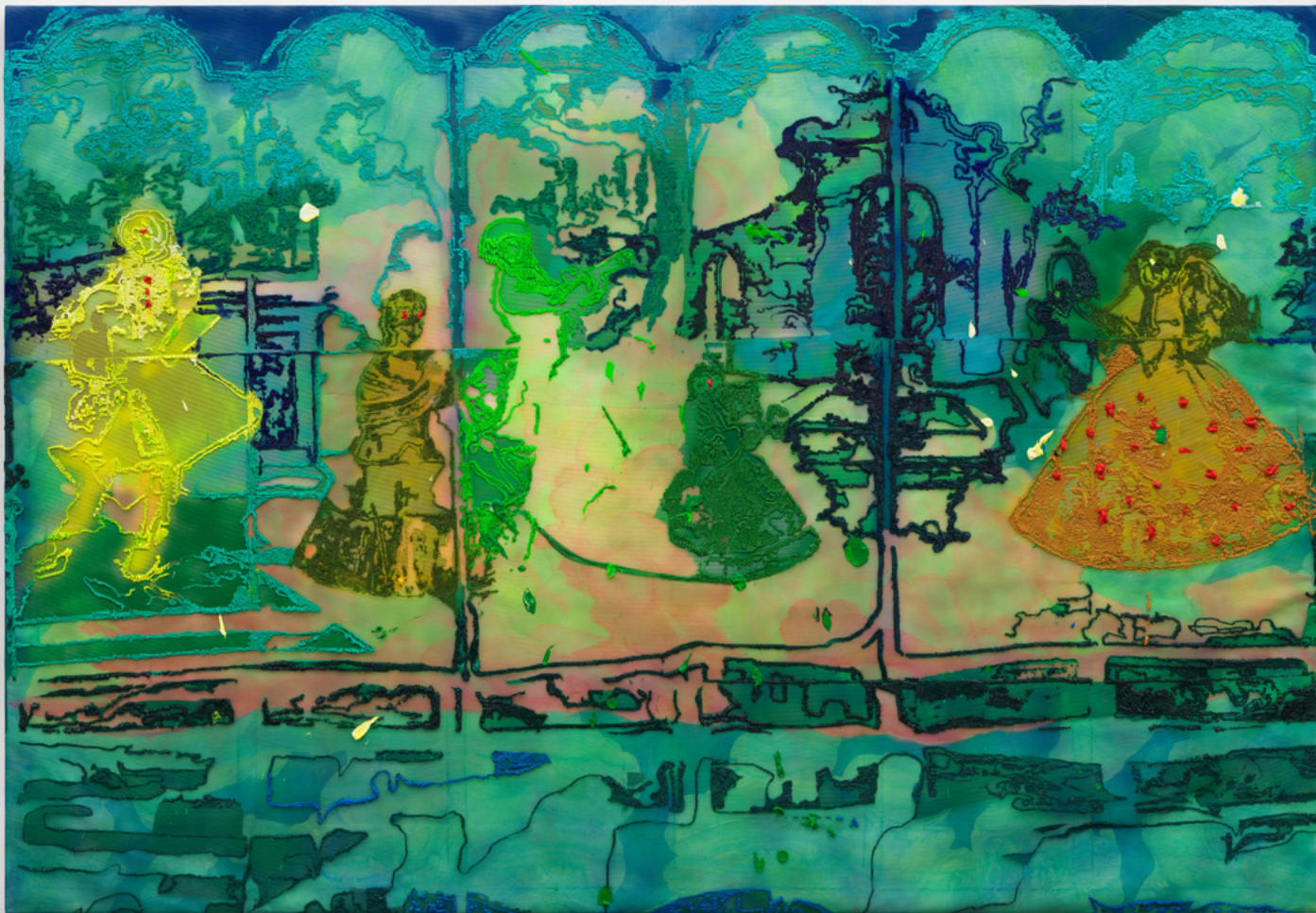


15 Sep 2023

ON VIEW / ARTICLE

What to See in NYC: September Gallery Guide



Austin Martin White, *Cloudscape (linear casta)*, 2023. Courtesy of the artist and Derek Eller Gallery, New York.

This month, Austin Martin White's work is on display at two galleries, [Derek Eller Gallery](#) and [Petzel](#). In his recent paintings, White investigates the complicated history of 18th-century colonial Mexico — both its cultural and personal significance. The artist spent time researching Mexico's "casta" paintings, used as a system for classifying individuals by their skin colour. In his works, these idealizations of whiteness are subverted by the use of a vibrant spectrum of colours: reds, neon greens, yellows, and purples fill in the contours of his subjects.

Some works are made on glass mirrors, while others, like "Cloudscape (linear casta)" (2023), include rubber, spray paint, vinyl, reflective fabric, glow-in-the-dark fabric, and nylon mesh. Together, the layered materials probe a deeper inspection beyond the surface. Upon closer look, clusters of raised lines reveal figures at first hidden in the abstracted foreground. The result is a collection of poignant works that simultaneously evoke feelings of belonging and alienation.