

Art

Our Mid-February Picks of New York City Art Shows

Cathleen Clarke's haunting paintings of childhood, Sharon Louden's funhouse-like aluminum artworks, Richard Mosse's new video installation, and more.



Hrag Vartanian February 15, 2024



Cathleen Clarke, "Sometimes We Remember Bedrooms" (2023–24) at Margot Samel Gallery (all photos Hrag Vartanian/*Hyperallergic*, unless otherwise noted)

This is our inaugural mid-month art picks list because New York is a 24/7 city and time is money, which means some exhibitions are shorter than we'd hope, but that doesn't mean we won't try to draw your attention to them. This mid-month list includes one of the most exciting new spaces to open in the city in a while, along with a solo show by a classic American Cubist, while haunting paintings rooted in ideas of Victorian childhood glow in Tribeca.

—*Hrag Vartanian*



Paintings by Cathleen Clarke, left to right, "Wrong Side of the Bed" (2023), "Thresholds" (2023–24), and "The Sandman" (2023)

Cathleen Clarke: *The Night Grows Long*

Clarke's focus is the strange history of childhood, when the concept of a pre-adult life and consciousness started to develop. We could spend time as pre-adults evolving ideally under the supervision of adults. Yet, in the Victorian era, which is the artist's preoccupation, society hadn't developed theories of psychology to figure out what was going on during this curious period of human leavening. Even Lewis Carroll's bizarre through-the-looking-glass vision of children's play was late to the era but has since tinted all fantastical visions of childhood. It is also an inspiration for the artist. Clarke's oil paintings are haunting, rendering strange closely cropped moments that float across hazy planes seemingly permeated with silence throughout. "The Sandman" (2023) is typical of her surreal style, which blends art history — I can't help but see Henri Rousseau's "La Guerre" (War) (1894) in the mysterious streaking form — with intimacy that feels self-consciously performed for an audience, all of which gives the paintings a theatrical snapshot feel. —*HV*

Margot Samel Gallery (margotsamel.com)

295 Church Street, Tribeca, Manhattan

Through February 24
