

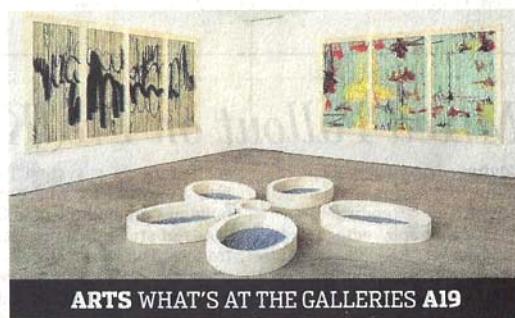
THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

Published June 6, 2014

PAINT BY INKJET

By Peter Plagens

GREATER NEW YORK



ARTS WHAT'S AT THE GALLERIES A19

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THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

Saturday/Sunday, June 7 - 8, 2014 | A15

Meyer Vaisman

In the Vicinity of History, 5774

Eleven Rivington, 11 Rivington St. and 195

Chrystie St., (212) 982-1930

Through June 27

When he was only in his mid-20s, Meyer Vaisman (b. 1960) helped found the artist-run International With Monument gallery in the then semidangerous neighborhood of the East Village. It launched the careers of Jeff Koons, Richard Prince and Peter Halley. Mr. Vaisman's own artistic calling cards were mounted turkeys wearing wigs. Created with his bohemian but unerring sense of design, they were always arresting.

Mr. Vaisman's other main interest has been what might be called un-painting: making paintings unsullied by such human touches as brushstrokes. Early on, he used a close-up of the weave of the canvas as a printed backdrop for, among other things, oval panels containing caricatures of himself, thereby distancing the persona of the artist as much from the finished un-painting as from the romance of manual style.

He's still at it. Removed to Barcelona for the past 14 years and having reportedly become quite religious (Mr. Vaisman now dates his works according to the Hebrew calendar), the artist has turned his attention to the verso side of paintings. On high-grade industrial plywood panels visible between members of erstwhile stretcher frames, he "paints" (with inkjet printing) overlaying multicolored versions of his own signature—another traditional painter's trope mildly sent up.

The works are handsome and visually a bit edgy in their challenge to the familiarity afforded by conventional paintings.