

What to See in N.Y.C. Galleries in June



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This week in Newly Reviewed, Martha Schwendener covers Jutta Koether’s moody expressionist paintings, Ina Archer’s “Black Black Moonlight: A Minstrel Show” and Susan Weil’s pastel “Spray Drawings.”

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Susan Weil

Through July 26. JDJ, 370 Broadway, Manhattan; 212-220-0611, jdj.world



These spray paint on paper works were originally included in Susan Weil’s first solo institutional exhibition in 1971. They’re now on display at JDJ through July 26. via Susan Weil and JDJ

Susan Weil is lodged firmly in art history, but in an auxiliary way. After attending the famed Black Mountain art school in North Carolina in the 1940s, she married Robert Rauschenberg and the two made a series, “[Blueprints](#)” (1949-1951), by capturing human bodies on light-sensitive paper. The body-silhouette idea has been explored by many artists, including David Hammons and Keltie Ferris, but Weil remains a lesser-known figure. Now 94 years old, she is still painting and writing poetry, and you can see 50 years of her work at JDJ in Lower Manhattan.

Those works, from 1969 to 2023, show a consistently clever approach to representing the body in two dimensions. A selection of pastel “Spray Drawings” from the early 1970s looks at first like geometric abstractions, until you realize that you’re seeing the outlines of arms and legs and torsos. “Walking Figure” (1968), made with spray paint on plexiglass, revamps the 19th-century photographer [Eadweard Muybridge](#)’s “human locomotion” experiments. Other works approach landscapes in a wildly inventive way, like “Soft Landscape” (1972), with its horizontal bands of earth and sky painted on canvas that has been draped from the wall like a jacket hung on a peg.

Recent works use opalescent or iridescent interference paint that causes the image to shift when viewed from different angles. Here, Weil tracks phases of the moon or the trajectory of the sun. Throughout, the common thread is a gentle, playful way of observing bodies, planets and the act of art making.