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THE NEW YORKER

February 2014

Goings on about Town: Art

GALLERIES—UPTOWN

Steve DiBenedetto

DiBenedetto does for octopuses and U.F.O.s what Cézanne did for apples and oranges (and what Guston did for bloodshot eyeballs), making paintings for painting's sake. This fiendishly appealing small show of the artist's collages begins with a swarming work held in place by straight pins, so its elements flutter like insects. It's followed by compressed and agitated compositions in acid hues that seem ready to melt down into raw energy or to whirl off the page. Don't miss the chapbook that accompanies the show, a visual index of DiBenedetto's inspirations, from alchemical illustrations to "Easy Rider." Through Feb. 25. (Half Gallery, 43 E. 78th St. 212-744-0151.)
