

MATTHEW MARKS GALLERY

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ARTNEWS

OPEN SEASON: RON NAGLE STUNS, WILL RYMAN STRIKES OUT, AND MORE

BY *Andrew Russeth* POSTED 09/21/15

Each summer seems to be shorter than the last one in the New York art world, and now we're back. Hundreds of galleries have opened new exhibitions around town over the past three weeks. The best show of the young season? Setting aside "[Picasso Sculpture](#)" at the [Museum of Modern Art](#), which is in a class all its own, my vote is 76-year-old Ron Nagle's electric debut outing at Matthew Marks Gallery, "[Five O'Clock Shadow](#)." Nagle is offering up more than 20 sumptuous abstract ceramics that almost make the work of Ken Price, his late, great peer, look austere. They are tiny, topping out at around 7 inches tall, but they deliver formidable doses of charisma, slapstick humor, and radioactive terror.



In 2015's *Urinetrouble* (Nagle hails from the John Chamberlain school of outré titling), a gargantuan bright-yellow egg yolk seems to be melting over a flat silver stone as a gun-metal-colored worm snakes over it and a slice of fried American cheese hovers in the background. It looked, to my eye, grotesque, then psychedelic, then uncomfortably erotic, and then all those things at once. Slick, shiny surfaces glide over rough lunar terrain and neon gradients threaten to clash, but Nagle always buoys his mayhem with a steady elegance. He has been in the game for more than half a century, and he is in his prime.