

MATTHEW MARKS GALLERY

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BLOUINARTINFO

5 Must-See Gallery Shows in New York: Ron Nagle, Keegan McHargue, and More

BY SCOTT INDRISEK | SEPTEMBER 21, 2015



Ron Nagle's "Quiet Wood," 2015
(Mathew Marks Gallery, NY)

Ron Nagle at **Matthew Marks Gallery**, through **October 24 (522 West 22nd Street)**

This 76-year-old San Francisco artist showcases irresistible assemblages of glazed ceramic, polyurethane, and resin charged with a funky bodily comedy and blessed with pun-happy titles (“Urinetrouble,” “Mutha Fakir”). Each tiny sculpture gets the breathing room it deserves — some on plinths, many tucked inside recessed dioramas. They’re as delectable as ice-cream sandwiches or pastel macarons; it’s hard to avoid food references, perhaps because Nagle’s creations resemble the molecular-gastronomy of some fictitious ex-Memphis Group member. They have a quasi-narrative bent toward lighthearted distress: fluids overflowing, puncture wounds oozing, everything saturated with gloop and goop. A single piece, like “Banabing,” 2013, crams an awesome variety into a simple composition: finish-fetish sheen mixed with finger-pressed clay and a chunky rectangular form that appears to be mottled with concrete dust.

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