

Will Heinrich, "What to See in N.Y.C. Galleries in January," *The New York Times*, January 30, 2025.

## The New York Times

# What to See in N.Y.C. Galleries in January

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By **Will Heinrich** and **Andrew Russeth**

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*This week in Newly Reviewed, Will Heinrich covers Raoul De Keyser's elegance, Nicola Tyson's camp sincerity, Susan Fortgang's bright geometry and Dietmar Busse's uncanny New York.*

CHELSEA

### Nicola Tyson

Through Feb. 22. Petzel, 520 West 25th Street, Manhattan; 212-680-9467, [petzel.com](https://www.petzel.com).



Nicola Tyson, "The Group," 2024, acrylic on canvas. via Nicola Tyson and Petzel, New York; Photo by Jason Mandella

# Petzel

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The people in Nicola Tyson's terrific new paintings are alive. Intuitive figures that the British painter most often renders in an electric shade of pink, they look more like half-formed dolls made of Silly Putty than they do like conventional figurative anatomy.

But whether they are in a naked huddle, as if for a commemorative photo ("The Group"); in an intense clutch ("The Embrace"); or even taking the form of a preening, melting Venus on the half-shell ("The Leftovers"), they practically wink and giggle in their eagerness to catch your eye.

It's all the more striking because their own eyes are ostensibly blank, mere circles that Tyson leaves alone after her initial base coat of color. They're like the eyeholes cut into a mask or a child's ghost costume, drawing expression only from their context and your expectations.

Tyson's paintings involve so much play, though, so much put-on, so much self-consciousness and performance and camp sincerity, that the empty eyes also become dynamic portals of action and exchange. They remind you that what's really human is what happens between us — and that goes for their belly buttons, too.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2025/01/02/arts/nyc-galleries-january.html?smid=url-share>