Palimpsest of Bohemian New York
by Chen Tamir

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Discovering Absence
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The show is densely hung and some gems particularly stand out. Alex Villar’s *Broken Window* takes Gordon Matta-Clark’s *Food and Window Blow-Out* and conflates them with recent scenes of urban life to create a storyboard for a film in progress. Villar’s work resonates beautifully with Nina Katchadourian’s *Two Leaps* that parallels two suicides that took place in SoHo about three decades apart. The first is of Gordon Matta-Clark’s brother’s, Sebastian, and the second of Katchadourian’s neighbor. Katchadourian frames notes and diaries, creating panels that trace out a mirrored story board of its own. Similarly structured in panels, Xaviere Simmons’ work centers around Vito Acconci’s early performance pieces, photographing the sites they had taken place in and her hand-drawn lists of them.

The memory of place figures strongly in all of the works. It seems to be a manifestation of our collective and individual reverie of the watershed of post-modern artists and the rich scene they created in the 1970s. The ones gathered here are not lacking in the same engagement and thoughtfulness of their predecessors. This is a rich, museum-quality exhibition that is a must-see for any cultural consumer in New York.


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