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Fateman, Johanna, “Goings on About Town: ‘Interior Scroll or What I Did on My Vacation,’” *The New Yorker*, August 2021

GOINGS ON ABOUT TOWN

ART

“Interior Scroll or What I Did on My Vacation”

This delightful constellation of works by seventeen artists (some working collaboratively), installed in the back room of the Broadway gallery, identifies intergenerational strains of transgressive mischief. The show is part of a sprawling endeavor organized by Soft Network, founded by the curator Chelsea Spengemann and the artist Sara VanDerBeek. Other components include the excellent film series “Artists on Camera, 1967-2021” (available on demand at metrograph.com) and various events in East Hampton, New York—the original location of the fabled feminist performance piece “Interior Scroll,” which lends this exhibition its name. In August, 1975, in front of a largely female audience, the artist Carolee Schneemann unfurled a scathing text—a takedown of a male filmmaker’s pretensions—from her vagina and read it aloud. The piece is represented here by a black-and-white photograph; another black-and-white picture, of a young man with a knowing grin, shot by Alvin Baltrop at the gay cruising grounds of Manhattan’s West Side piers sometime between 1976 and 1985, also feels like a curatorial muse. The octogenarian painter Juanita McNeely’s pained but never humorless figurative canvases from the mid-eighties are always a treat to see, and a new print from Alisha B. Wormsley’s ongoing series “There Are Black People in the Future,” documenting a pair of rusted stakes and a battered cassette tape, among other artifacts, underscores the show’s mood of radical time travel.

— Johanna Fateman

Aug. 5-Aug. 27
Broadway
373 Broadway
Downtown
212-226-4001