

RYAN SULLIVAN

"Goings On About Town: Ryan Sullivan"

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GOINGS ON ABOUT TOWN

ART GALLERIES—DOWNTOWN

Ryan Sullivan

Call it post-zombie or born-again formalism: this young artist's paintings remind us of abstraction's reason for being. Sullivan's big pictures—in cast urethane resin, fibreglass, and epoxy—appear fast and loose at first and last glance, but they deliver epiphanies, deploying pours, drips, swashes, and buckles in clamorous, saturated hues, with full-arm gestures so deft as to feel wristy. It takes some minutes to realize, and then to marvel at, the fact that the dozen works on view possess as many distinctive stylistic logics, as if each one were the only painting in the world. The effect is that of a ruminative intelligence functioning at warp speed.