

# THE NEW YORKER

ART GALLERIES-DOWNTOWN

## Shara Hughes

The young American painter describes her enchanted vistas as “invented landscapes.” They recall picturesque images from vintage postcards, blown up and abstracted to assume a fantastical ambiguity. Bright stains, spray-painted marks, and fluid gestures are topped with impasto and scumbled areas, which lend the saturated, portal-like compositions a magnetic depth. The confetti sky and fairy-land meadow of “It’s More Than a Guilty Pleasure” have the mod ebullience of Vera Neumann’s floral textiles; “Feels Heavy from Here” suggests a sunlit lake glimpsed through the jewel-toned curtain of a waterfall. These lush works, like Hughes’s paintings currently on view in the Whitney Biennial, use every trick in the book to seduce, but still manage to come off as guileless visions of not-so-far-away worlds.

— *The New Yorker*