

The New York Times

What to See in N.Y.C. Galleries in October

By Martha Schwendener

Oct. 3, 2024, 11:00 a.m. ET

TWO BRIDGES

Dennis Kardon

Through Oct. 26. Lubov, 5 East Broadway, Manhattan; 347-496-5833, lubov.nyc.



Dennis Kardon, "Slashed Venus/Healed Venus," 1989-2024, oil on linen. via Dennis Kardon, Lubov, New York, and Massimo de Carlo, Milan/London/Hong Kong/Paris/Beijing; Photo by Justin Craun

Dennis Kardon has been painting bodies for more than 30 years, but his approach has changed significantly over that time, as you can see in “Transgressions,” a compact survey at Lubov. Some of the earliest canvases, made in 1990, capture fragments of models Kardon hired from advertisements in downtown newspapers.

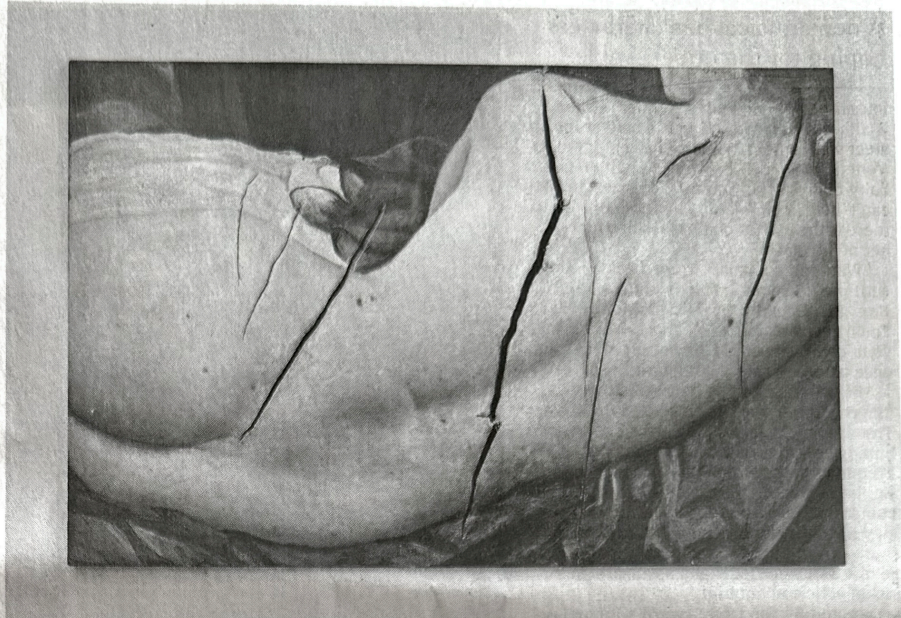
There is also a wonderfully strange “Slashed Venus/Healed Venus” (1989/2024), painted after a photograph of Diego Velázquez’s “Rokeby Venus” (1647) that shows Velázquez’s painting after it was [slashed with a meat cleaver](#) by the suffragist Mary Richardson in 1914. (Interestingly, the same painting was [targeted by climate-change protesters](#) last year.) Kardon slashed his canvas, too, but “healed” it with thread, and made a few recent adjustments.

Other works similarly question the boundaries between bodies and paintings. “Seeing Through Paint” (2010) is an eerie depiction of a mannequin holding a kaleidoscopic orb. There are also paintings that recall the curious compositions of Paula Rego, with human and animal figures crammed into the rectilinear spaces of a canvas.

One of the oddest and most beautiful and poetic is “Metempsychosis” (2006), which takes its name from a word that means: the transmigration of the soul into another body. Here, a lavender Indian Krishna figure tangles erotically with a Rubenesque cow. The painting suggests, in seductive fashion, that painting itself is transmigration, orchestrated by the artist.

Galleries

MARTHA SCHWENDENER



VIA DENNIS KARDON, MASSIMODECARLO, AND LUBOV, NEW YORK

Dennis Kardon's "Slashed Venus/Healed Venus" (1989-2024) is based on Diego Velázquez's "Rokeby Venus."

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