

# The New York Times

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

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By **Martha Schwendener**

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TWO BRIDGES

**Dennis Kardon**

Through Oct. 26. Lubov, 5 East Broadway, Manhattan; 347-496-5833, [lubov.nyc](http://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

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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.

