



GOINGS ON ABOUT TOWN

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"FROZEN LAKES"

This shrewd and fascinating show takes its name from the filmmaker Alexander Kluge's theory of montage. But the title could easily have been "Pictures, Take Two." To mark the fortieth anniversary of Artists Space, its director, Stefan Kalmar, and curator, Richard Birkett, revisit the event that gave the nonprofit a place in art history—the 1977 "Pictures" exhibition. The original premise: artists were responding to media saturation by using images that were already in circulation. In 2013, the focus is on circulation itself. A confounding but seductive elusiveness dominates in works that both imply and refute narrative, notably the taut films of Ed Atkins and a mockumentary by Shadi Habbib Allah that documents the fabrication of the sculpture-cum-projector that is playing the film about itself. The object was made in an auto body shop—a telling detail, because bodies here are treated less as figures than as means for information to migrate, as seen in an installation of T-shirts and scarves, designed by the collective Metahaven, printed with texts lifted from WikiLeaks. Through March 31. (Artists Space, 38 Greene St. 212-226-3970.)