

KATE WERBLE GALLERY

83 VANDAM STREET NEW YORK, NY 10013

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Art in review

What to See in New York Art Galleries This Week

Karen Rosenberg

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Sarah Wright's "both ways," inkjet on photo paper.

Credit

Elisabeth Bernstein

'Sexting'

Kate Werble Gallery

83 Vandam Street

SoHo

Through next Friday

The smarter-than-it-sounds summer group show "Sexting" at Kate Werble Gallery scrutinizes the strange combinations of overconfidence and vulnerability, intimacy and distance, in the supposedly ephemeral art of sexual self-portraiture. As the artist and writer Carmen Winant asks in a statement that accompanies the exhibition, "How far away can we get from ourselves?"

Her own collage of black-and-white pictures of hands and feet, "Looking Forward to Being Attacked," is one of many works that present fetishized and fragmented bodies or bodily stand-ins (as in Burt Barr's short video of a gushing garden hose). Shareability and virality are implied, even by the artists working in traditional media; Tschabalala Self's goofy-looking "Big Red," a semiabstract, painted-wood cutout of a woman's legs, buttocks and upturned pelvis, could be seen as an extra-large emoji, as could Sadie Laska's shaped painting "Lips."

Sarah Wright's unstructured collages evoke the industrious grooming and presentation that often precedes women's forays into this kind of self-portraiture. In these works she layers underwires, cosmetic sponges and other beauty-industry paraphernalia over inkjet prints in archival plastic pouches. But "Sexting" is really a light, witty, intermittently philosophical look at a genre of amateur photography that can't help infiltrating other figurative art.

KAREN ROSENBERG