

Galerie

ART & CULTURE

8 Must-See Solo Gallery Shows in July

From Nancy Dwyer's paintings and sculptures that smartly turn words into images to Marcel Dzama's storytelling drawings of anthropomorphized animals and dancing characters

BY PAUL LASTER

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Rounding up the best gallery exhibitions across the United States each month, *Galerie* traveled from New York to California to discover the top solo shows for July. From Nancy Dwyer's paintings and sculptures that smartly turn words into images at Ortuzar in New York to Marcel Dzama's storytelling drawings of anthropomorphized animals and dancing characters and his surreal film that pays homage to Federico García Lorca at David Zwirner in Los Angeles, these are the not-to-be-missed shows this month.



Nancy Dwyer, *BODY*, (1991).

PHOTO: DARIO LASAGNI. © NANCY DWYER. COURTESY OF THE ARTIST, ORTUZAR AND THETA

1. Nancy Dwyer at Ortuzar | New York

Linked to the Pictures Generation—a group of artists in the 1970s and '80s who used newspapers, advertisements, films, and television to explore these media as representations of reality—[Nancy Dwyer](#) is renowned for turning words into images and highlighting ironic meanings within them. One of the co-founders of Hallwalls, a Buffalo nonprofit where [Cindy Sherman](#) and [Robert Longo](#) also started their careers, Dwyer has used song lyrics, slang, colloquialisms, and idioms to craft clever paintings, sculptures, works on paper, and animations over the past 40+ years.

Fresh off a survey at the Kunsthalle Winterthur in Switzerland, where several works from the gallery's "ALWAYS" exhibition were displayed, the New York-born, Santa Fe-based artist is showcasing a lively selection of paintings and sculptures from 1982 to today. From an early canvas depicting a girl in a contorted yoga pose and Picabia-inspired Neo-Dadaist paintings of poetic phrases portrayed as mechanical gears, to sculptural furniture and wall reliefs that comment on themselves, and sayings graphically rendered on panels installed on television mounts, Dwyer smartly transforms words into captivating pictograms—creating a form of infotainment that keeps the audience engaged.

Through August 1