

# THE NEW YORKER

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Goings on About Town “Gregory Edwards”

By Johanna Fateman

Today’s flâneur likely carries a smartphone, strolling while scrolling and taking pictures of whatever catches the eye. In the crisply rendered series “Pedestrian Paintings” (at the 47 Canal gallery), Edwards conveys this new digitally enhanced experience, nesting images in other images, all derived from his personal archive of street photography. These square canvases exude an observant dispassion—Edwards’s paint handling is uniform and unexpressive—but there’s a considered lyricism in their juxtapositions. One painting shows what looks to be a deflated ball, emblazoned with a smiley face, resting on asphalt in daylight; the toy’s bright yellow echoes the glare of headlights in the image of traffic that frames it. Nearby, a mostly grisaille composition makes shadows its theme—a silhouette of stacked street signs is inset into a scene of sun-dappled concrete. In these paintings, Edwards handily pauses our mode of endless screen time and distraction, offering moments of visual serendipity for contemplation instead.