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The 15 New York Gallery Shows You Need to See This September

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Left: Jonathan Gardner, *Reclining Nude*, 2016. Right: Jonathan Gardner, *Connection*, 2016. Photos: Jean Vong. Images courtesy of the artist and Casey Kaplan, New York.

Jonathan Gardner at Casey Kaplan SEP. 8–OCT. 22, 121 WEST 27TH STREET

A year after Gardner's paintings made buzzy appearances at LISTE and Art Basel in Miami Beach, the New York-based artist rings in his New York solo debut with a grouping of large-scale canvases. Building on his breakout body of stylized, just-left-of-surrealist tableaus, he fills his new work with elegant hodgepodes of traditional Modernist devices—supine nudes, fractured space, and tromp l'oeil details among them. But there's a contemporary twist. The edges of each form are so smooth that they recall Photoshop concoctions. And house plants make witty reference to our current obsession with perfectly-potted succulents, while clothing and walls adorned with angular patterns look as though they've been lifted from your coolest friend's Instagram feed. All this is to say, Gardner's paintings carry more than the associations conjured by the reclining nude. They also embody—and question—today's penchant for personal curation.