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## **GALLERIES–CHELSEA** Keltie Ferris

Until recently, the best way to prove you were a serious painter was to paint unseriously: mocking the medium, the way Polke or Kippenberger did, meant that you knew the rules of the game. That moment has passed. This bravura show by a leading figure of the newnew painting finds Ferris deploying an arsenal of techniques, from spray guns to impressions of her own body, in riotous soft-edged compositions. She eschews Ab-Ex mark-making for nongestural layers of color, airy mauve or honking goldenrod, interrupted at times by flowing circuits broken into patterns suggestive of pixels. This is the work of an artist who isn't afraid to tell painting "I love you." Through Oct. 17. (Mitchell-Innes & Nash, 1018 Madison Ave., at 78th St. 212-744-7400.)