

CRITIC'S GUIDE - 28 FEB 2017

Critic's Guide: New York

Ahead of the spring fairs opening in the city this week, a guide to the best shows to see around town

BY ORIT GAT



Dena Yago, *The Grain Sifters*, 2017, pressed wool, natural dyes, steel, 73 x 85 x 6 in. Courtesy: the artist and Bodega, New York

Dena Yago

Bodega

25 February – 2 April

The five tableaus that comprise Dena Yago's 'The Lusting Breed' are made of pressed wool felt, a material chosen for its association with femininity, but here displayed protruding the space in a far-from gentle way. Hanging from metal rods, the felt squares are cut through with scenes taken from both art history and contemporary life, which critically look at the image of women's labour, displayed as craft (hence the felt) or affective emotional work. It's a timely subject at a moment when women's rights and bodies are back to be disputed by male politicians. Yago, whose work spans different mediums, subjects, and affiliations, presents an exhibition with a political stake that uses recognition as a way of alienating the viewer from the work. These hanging objects are droopy and dark, and they tap into that uncomfortable moment when an image or a scene rings familiar, demanding the viewer look again and judge whether all is as true or normal as it seems.