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GOINGS ON ABOUT TOWN

ART GALLERIES—DOWNTOWN

Erica Baum

A standout in the Guggenheim's current exhibition "Photo-Poetics," Baum often finds her subjects in pointedly pre-digital sources—library card catalogues, vintage paperback books—creating photographic text pieces that are as resonant and sublimely mundane as anything by Ed Ruscha. Portraits of words ("déjà vu," "reason," "irrational") are shown alongside Baum's earlier pictures of blackboards. Chalk tally marks in one recall Jean-Michel Basquiat, but most of the boards are largely erased. Their milky smears echo the clouds in the newest works here, big rural landscapes—photographs of photographic reproductions in books—paired with enlarged details of skies, now exquisitely atomized.