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Our Critic Recommends 3 Tribeca Shows That Strip Away the Excesses of Painting (excerpt)

John Vincler recommends Katherine Bradford at Canada, Leslie Smith III at Chart,
and Kate Spencer Stewart at Bureau.

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Kate Spencer Stewart, *Ritual*, 2025. Image courtesy of the artist and Bureau.

Kate Spencer Stewart's large paintings are most interesting in how they record rhythms of repetitive gestures in her approach to post-color field abstraction. The Los Angeles-based painter's canvases (all 2025) conjure diaphanous forms or energetic movements, as in the evocation of wind-blown stalks of wheat or cattails in *Ritual*, the thick morning fog of *Morning Star*, or the red heat radiating from *Verily Verily*, where gestural figure eights suggest licking flames. The smaller floral works downstairs are unpretentious gifts of simple beauty, made more interesting—and, like their subjects, more ephemeral—in the three examples of linen mounted on cardboard, creating a slightly pillowed effect. Painting for painting's sake, reduced to an essence alternatively floral or vaporous.