

CLIFTON BENEVENTO

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THE NEW YORKER

GOINGS ON ABOUT TOWN: ART

GINA BEAVERS

Don't see this show on an empty stomach: among the subjects of the artist's small, heavily worked still-life paintings are oysters, fried chicken and waffles, and a thickly frosted red-velvet cake. The fact that the show's title, "Palate," is a homophone for "palette" is no mere coincidence; the taste being explored here is as much aesthetic as it is culinary. At times, the imagery borders on the grotesque—more Soutine side of beef than Wayne Thibaud cake. Beavers is most interested in pushing the limits of painting's plasticity, building up her surfaces with acrylic gel until they qualify as reliefs and adding unorthodox elements in the process. Glass beads give ketchup a realistic gloppiness, and pumice insures that a pie crust has just the right degree of crumble. Through Dec. 22.

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