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Uptown, a Jumble of Treasures

By Ken Johnson

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“Massage,” a small group show at Andrew Roth, presents cerebral works inspired partly by Marshall McLuhan’s quipping play on his famous pronouncement “The medium is the message.” Pamela Rosenkranz imprints expressionist smears of terra-cotta-colored paint on large rectangles of white terrycloth; Antek Walczak draws mathematical grids over prints of a heroic fantasy poster; Sean Paul makes artist books involving the semiotics of spontaneity and digitalization. In a sculpture by Georgia Sagri a small flat screen imbedded in a fancy white handbag plays a video montage of pictures of an exhibition by David Hammons, an artist known for works obliquely referring to racial issues, and news footage of the recent revolution in Egypt.