Opening: Lucy Dodd at Whitney Museum
One day, when Lucy Dodd was stretching and priming a canvas, her dog peed on what was to become a new work. Rather than re-prime the canvas, she decided to leave the stain alone. By now, we’ve come to expect this sort of thing from Dodd, who, for her new Whitney show, will rely on materials like fermented walnuts and kombucha in new paintings. The fusion of organic matter and canvases isn’t exactly new—Oscar Murillo launched himself to fame by doing it, and so have many other artists throughout history. But what keeps Dodd’s work fresh is not just its smell (often pungent), but that Dodd refuses to hold painting to some higher standard, as if it were somehow better than or above the dirtiness of life itself. For her Whitney show, which is part of the museum’s “Open Plan” series, Dodd has made shaped canvases in response to the Hudson River and invited musicians to perform to further invite the outside world into the gallery space. —Alex Greenberger
Whitney Museum, 99 Gansevoort Street, 10:30 a.m.–6 p.m.

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