

# THE NEW YORKER

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ART GALLERIES—UPTOWN

## Ellen Berkenblit

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The painter, based in New York since the heyday of the East Village scene, in the eighties, continues to find limitless potential in her own mood-lit corner of the world. Working for the first time on stretched patchworks of calico fabric, an effect that suggests a cross between Carroll Dunham and Betsey Johnson, she portrays her signature women, always in profile, with razor-fish noses, thick lashes, and beribboned toques. These are attended by sparsely rendered chestnut horses on canvas. Elsewhere, plump fingers with fuchsia and crimson nails pluck flowers against dark, mournful backgrounds. In "Tincture of Musk," the fingers of a giant hand (a nod, perhaps, to Philip Guston's iconic canvas "The Line") are positioned as if they had just released a pinch of something into a potion.