Art in America

EXHIBITIONS THE LOOKOUT

Chris Martin

at Anton Kern, through Nov. 15 532 W. 20th St.



In his first exhibition with Anton Kern, Chris Martin shows large mixed-medium abstract paintings that nearly jump off the wall, many of them loaded with holographic glitter custom-designed for Vegas showgirls. Despite such lowbrow associations, Martin is always simultaneously seeking transcendence. Writing in *A.i.A.* in 2011, Nancy Princenthal quoted the artist proclaiming, of himself and his fellow abstractionists, "We are searching for this state of utter conviction." A relatively dense hang of active, bracingly colorful works results in a visual feast. He's said that he's trying to make painting into "a machine that wakes you up." This show allows for no snoozing.