

# THE NEW YORKER

ART GALLERIES—DOWNTOWN

## Elizabeth Murray



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Canada  
333 Broome St.  
Downtown  
212-925-4631

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This array of deep cuts from the nineteen-eighties and nineties shows the exuberant abstractionist toying with ideas for her bright compositions. Murray, who died in 2007, made her name with surprising combinations of mechanical and intestinal forms in cartoony works that evoke twisted balloons, tangled showerheads, hamster mazes, and puzzle pieces. (The painter Carroll Dunham and the writer Dan Nadel, torchbearers of Murray's good-humored, Pop-inflected vibe, co-organized the show.) Small studies on graph paper or loose-leaf pages join finished drawings and one big, splashy painting, "Dust Tracks," from 1993. It's a shaped canvas, that suggests both a seahorse and a comic-book "POW!," with a skeleton-key hole. Periodically throwing cups or cacti into the mix, Murray walked a tightrope strung between the known world and her madcap imagination.