

ART GALLERIES—DOWNTOWN

“Samaritans”

Through March 3.

Presenhuber
39 Great Jones St.
Downtown

212 931-0711

[Website](#)



© Ellen Berkenblit; Courtesy the artist and Anton Kern Gallery, New York

The curator Dan Nadel, whose portal to art was underground comics, has a superbly weird eye and a mind that works like a Venn diagram. The sixteen artists in **“Samaritans,”** the split-level group show he organized at the Presenhuber gallery (on view through March 3), are united formally by their eccentricity and informally by their relationships. There are onetime high-school classmates (the painters Steve DiBenedetto and Ellen Berkenblit, whose *“Captain of the Road”* is pictured here), married couples (the sculptor Huma Bhabha and the painter Jason Fox, co-conspirators in gnarly aesthetics), and patron saints of the twisted (the polymathic cartoonist vibe of a what-if conversation about, to list a few of the show’s subjects, past lives, extraterrestrials, and speaking in tongues.

— Andrea K. Scott