



Three to see: New York

From a precocious photographer to a 45th birthday

By: James H. Miller and Victoria Stapley-Brown, November 30, 2017

Function to Freedom: Quilts and Abstract Expressions at Sara Kay Gallery (until 13 January 2018) hangs American quilts and textile works from the 18th to early 20th centuries alongside abstract works by female Post-war and contemporary artists such as Louise Nevelson, Helen Frankenthaler and Grace Hartigan. “These works blur the boundary between canvas and quilt, what is art and what is craft, and whether this distinction is a meaningful one,” says Sara Kay. An optical illusion silk and velvet quilt (around 1875) that uses log cabin and pineapple motifs has the same inventiveness and experimentation in form and colour as the paintings on show. In a different context, the quilt’s clever and dazzling visual trickery, which makes the forms jump out and recede, could hold its own against any Op art.