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The Critic's Notebook

Art:



Elizabeth Higgins, Women At The Window, 2022, Oil on canvas, Prince Street Gallery, New York. © 2022 Elizabeth Higgins.

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“How The Light Gets In: New Paintings and Prints by Elizabeth Higgins,” at Prince Street Gallery (through December 24): Elizabeth Higgins has mastered the art of looking. In “How the Light Gets In,” her tenth solo show, Higgins provides more than thirty new pieces of penetrating vision. These works, a panoply of figurative and landscape abstractions, welcome the viewer’s gaze and merge it seamlessly with the artist’s. In both title and subject, Higgins returns again and again to the action of looking and the objects of our attention: her figures peer out windows and into the vibrant worlds they reveal, bright canvases within the canvas. Elsewhere the figures are depicted in museums in which little delineation is made between museum object and museum visitor. All the while, Higgins strives for effects of light and color to be felt as more than just reductive “frequencies of energy”—she is, as T. S. Eliot once wrote, “looking into the heart of light.” —LL