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GALLERIES—DOWNTOWN

BENJAMIN DEGEN

Degen carries on the two-decade-old trend of artists mining overlooked veins of arts and crafts—from Balthus and American primitivism to macramé. Degen favors the folksy and the decorative, the look of the woodcut and of computerized graphic design. There's a bit of surrealism, a smidgen of Jacob Lawrence, and the expressive, patterned joy of the Gee's Bend quilters. There is also, at the core, a studied anti-sophistication that is perfectly attuned to the present moment in painting. Through March 22. (Guild & Greyskul, 28 Wooster St. 212-625-9224.)
