



5 Talents From the Artnet Gallery Network We're Keeping an Eye on as the Fall Season Kicks Off

Artnet Gallery Network

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Esther Pearl Watson creates folkloric paintings of everyday scenes taken from her Texas childhood, from cow-dotted fields to roadside scenes, and her own fascination with UFOs. The artist grew up in small towns throughout the state, with an Italian immigrant father who spent his time trying to build a functional flying saucer. He imagined selling the plans to NASA in a financial windfall, spending the family's meager funds on aluminum foil. These flattened, colorful artworks recall the work of outsider artists such as Anna Mary

Robertson Moses and Clara McDonald Williamson while underscoring the tensions between imagination, mental illness, poverty, and the American Dream. Watson's exhibition "Guardian of Eden" is currently on view with New York's Andrew Edlin Gallery.



Esther Pearl Watson, *Born Brave*, 2022