

# SKARSTEDT

## The New York Times

### What to See in New York Art Galleries Right Now



## Steven Parrino

Steven Parrino, an exemplar of punk nihilism in music and art, died at 46, on New Year's Day, 2005, when his motorcycle crashed. "Paintings & Drawings" is only his second solo show in New York since his death. The first was at Gagosian in 2007. Now Skarstedt has taken over Mr. Parrino's ascent toward blue-chipdom. The show inaugurates the gallery's elevation to the elegant townhouse that once housed the Wildenstein gallery.

Studiously inert, conceptually obvious and starkly ungriving, Mr. Parrino's end-of-painting paintings will probably never look as good as they do in this building, with its marble entrance hall, double-height ceilings and traditional molding.

The paintings consist mainly of alternately bright or dark monochrome canvases that have been partly pulled off their stretchers, twisted, ruffled and rucked. They might have been inspired by the thought, "What would Frank Stella do if he were 20 years younger and obsessed with punk music?" A kind of deconstructed formalism that is not without erotic frisson seems to be the answer. Also on view is a series of collages involving found photographs of human bodies, dead and alive — Andy Warhol's scarred torso, large-breasted women, murder scenes both real and cinematic. The collages magnify the violence in the paintings' dishevelment. It is hard not to see many of them as women that have been undressed, and not nicely. ROBERTA SMITH June 26, 2019