

BROADWAY

The New York Times

What to See in N.Y.C. Galleries in September

TRIBECA

Teresa Baker

Through Oct. 19. Broadway, 375 Broadway, Manhattan; 212-226-4001,
Broadwaygallery.nyc



Teresa Baker, "Waking," 2024, yarn, buckskin, acrylic on AstroTurf. via Teresa Baker and Broadway Gallery, New York; Photo by Ruben Diaz

Teresa Baker's abstract artworks have a sublime beauty. Often stretching several feet, they contain swaths of deep color interrupted and intersected by lines and patches of yarn. The pieces have imperfections and irregular shapes, which give them an added quirkiness. Standing before them at Baker's first solo show in New York, I became lost in the rhythmic compositions; the works are a cross between paintings and tapestries, and they feel meditative.

It is perhaps surprising, then, to learn that they're rendered on AstroTurf, which Baker has transformed thoroughly. It is not quite beyond recognition, but beyond any expectations you may have for it.

BROADWAY

The artist grew up on the Northern Plains, where her father was a superintendent for the National Park Service. You can sense the vastness of that landscape in her works, which suggest aerial views of Earth. (She lives in Los Angeles now, which helps explain the AstroTurf.)

Baker's Mandan and Hidatsa heritage offers a conceptual key. The exhibition is titled "[Mapping the Territory](#)," and accordingly, the light blue curving form in "Of This Time" (2024) suggests a river; the cluster of staccato lines in "Movements of the Land" (2024) could be a forest.

However, these are Native maps, not Western European ones. They're not geographically precise documents intended to exert control. They offer an expansive sense of land as something not just seen or claimed, but experienced and moved through.