



Brian O'Doherty

Now in his mid-eighties, O'Doherty—a critic, editor, Booker-short-listed novelist, medical doctor, and artist, who frequently showed under the pseudonym Patrick Ireland—is a Conceptualist with a mischievous streak. This victory lap of a retrospective, at two young galleries, concentrates on his early work, which utilized language, mathematics, and logic but frequently turned playful, as seen in a text piece incorporating some very rude Irish and American sexual slang. (“Fanny” means something quite different depending on which side of the Atlantic you’re on.) Many of the games and puzzles pay a debt to his friend Marcel Duchamp, whose pulse O’Doherty took for a portrait in the form of an electrocardiogram. Duchamp’s heart beats steadily all these years later; your own heart, in the midst of O’Doherty’s work, might soon be racing. Through April 20. (Subal, 131 Bowery, 917-409-0612, and P!, 334 Broome St. For more information, visit p-exclamation.org.)

334 BROOME ST
NEW YORK NY 10002
+1 212 334 5200
INFO@P-EXCLAMATION.COM
@P_EXCLAMATION

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