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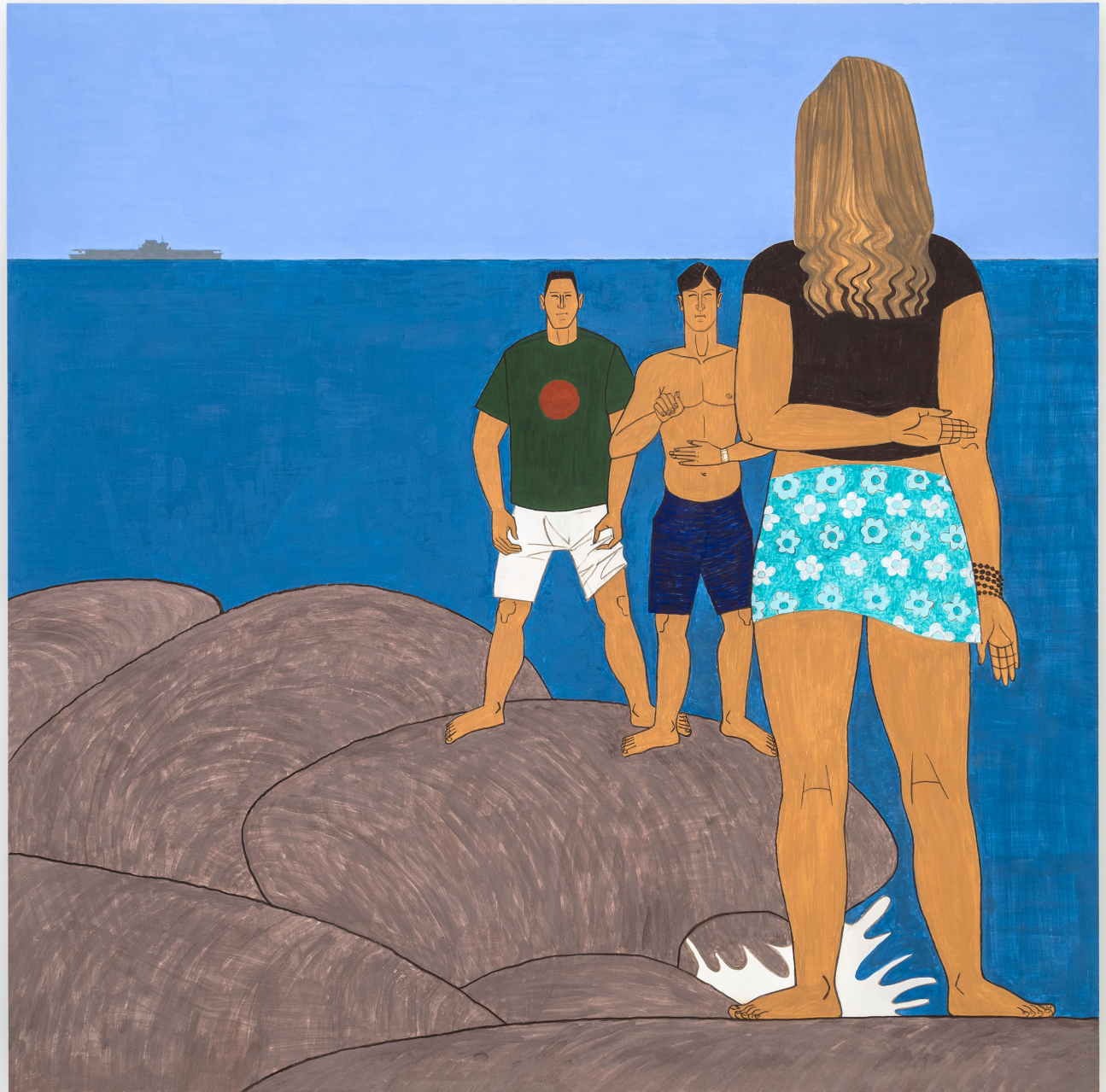


Photo: Yves Tessier's "3 Youths on the Jetty," at Shrine. Credit Courtesy of the artist and Shrine

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What to See in New York Art Galleries This Week

YVES TESSIER

Through April 9. Shrine, 191 Henry Street, Manhattan; 347-693-4979, shrine.nyc.

In 1906 the German psychiatrist Ernst Jentsch set out a theory on the term “uncanny” (although Sigmund Freud is often erroneously credited as being first) as describing the uncomfortable sensation of assimilating “new and unusual” phenomenon into everyday life. The term has proved to be extraordinarily serviceable in describing art of the past century, including works by the French Canadian painter [Yves Tessier currently on view at Shrine](#) on the Lower East Side.

In these matte, chalky-looking panels painted with quick-drying casein on aluminum, Mr. Tessier draws from numerous lineages of art history, combining them in seamless yet curious ways. Figures are laid out in compositions that recall Egyptian reliefs and Greek vase painting, as well as Japanese prints (including shunga erotic prints), comics and the light sexual humor of painters like John Wesley and William N. Copley. Works like “Sur l’herbe avec les bernaches” (“On the grass with the geese”), from 2017, and paintings of nude bathers in Central Park conjure Manet’s incendiary paintings from the 1860s. Mr. Tessier’s panels are also filled with uncanny details, like a woman with two left feet or a turtle being fished out of a hot tub.

Mr. Tessier’s paintings might reflect his viewpoint as a French Canadian living between two worlds — he maintains studios in Montreal and New York. But the internet is also crucial. History and the present, politics and poetry, the sublime and the ridiculous can now be digitally compressed into clever memes. Mr. Tessier’s images channel some of that strangeness and possibility.

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