

MATTHEW MARKS GALLERY

523 West 24th Street, New York, New York 10011 Tel: 212-243-0200 Fax: 212-243-0047

Art in America

EXHIBITIONS THE LOOKOUT



Ron Nagle

at Matthew Marks,
through Oct. 24
522 West 22nd Street

Set in niches in the walls and plate-glass vitrines throughout the gallery, 35 abstract sculptures Ron Nagle produced between 1991 and 2015 stand poised for worshipful contemplation. The colorful, textural icons, almost all four by six inches, employ a variety of techniques, including slip-casting and hand-molding, as well as materials like glazed ceramic, polyurethane and epoxy. The West Coast artist's works are radiant, playful and witty, though the joke itself is uncertain. In *Quiet Wood* (2015), for instance, skinny purple fingers poke through holes in a ceramic base. Orange polyurethane drips over the base, like a Nickelodeon kid's show version of toxic waste. A selection of drawings and a group of bronze sculptures from Nagle's "Hands On" series (1991) are also on view.

Pictured: Ron Nagle: *Handsome Drifter*, 2015, ceramic, glaze, catalyzed polyurethane, epoxy resin. 3 ¾ by 4 by 3 inches. © Ron Nagle. Courtesy Matthew Marks.