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AT THE GALLERIES



William Scott dreams of the future, of “Beautiful Peace on Earth,” as he titled the video that introduces his inspired new show, at Ortuzar Projects (through Sept. 26). The piece, made in 2013, reimagines the “Star Wars” villain Darth Vader—played by Scott, in an impressive hand-fashioned mask—as a gentle champion of urban landscape, an Afrofuturist St. Francis, patron saint of pigeons. Inside the main gallery are nineteen of the dynamic acrylic paintings, on canvas and paper, that have earned the fifty-seven-year-old Bay Area artist an international following, from MOMA to the Palais de Tokyo, in Paris. Since 1992, Scott has worked out of a studio at Creative Growth, a nonprofit center in Oakland for the self-taught, whose imaginations are unrestricted by art-world dictums and fads. This is not to suggest that Scott is oblivious to pop culture: Janet Jackson and Diana Ross appear in his crew of time travellers. The stargazing portrait above, completed this year, is from the endearingly named series “Wholesome Encounters.” It’s typical of the artist’s bright, synthetic vision, in which sci-fi and Sunday church socials go hand in hand.—*Andrea K. Scott*