

ART

Hollis Sigler

Anguished scenes have a fairy-tale edge in this Chicago painter's beautiful exhibition, her first in New York since the nineteen-eighties. It's hard to believe that Sigler, who died of breast cancer in 2001, at the age of fifty-three, was once a photo-realist: the pictures on view, from 1981-2000, are rendered with a theatrical faux naïveté. Among the earliest pieces is a small oil-pastel depiction of a ransacked kitchen, titled "She Kept Devising Means to Escape"—a compellingly agitated feminist critique of domestic entrapment in a vibrant palette of turquoise, gold, and violet. The artist's cancer diagnosis led to another pivot in her painting style. An out lesbian, Sigler took an activist approach to the autobiographical content of her work, combining haunting personal imagery with facts about her disease, hand-painted in cursive text around the pictures' frames. In one riveting canvas, from 1998, a rip in a stage-set landscape reveals fireworks in the night sky; the image conveys all the desperate determination of its title, "I'm Holding Out for Victory, Winning Is My Greatest Desire."

— *Johanna Fateman*

Feb. 19-Mar. 20

📍 Kreps
22 Cortland Alley
Downtown

212-741-8849

[Website](#)

