

# The New York Times

## 4 Art Gallery Shows to See Right Now

Ficre Ghebreyesus's artistic legacy; Steve Mumford's combat-zone drawings; Manal Kara's adoring gaze; Cheyenne Julien's iridescent paintings.

### Steve Mumford

Through Oct. 31. Postmasters, 54 Franklin Street, Manhattan; 212-727-3323, [postmastersart.com](http://postmastersart.com).



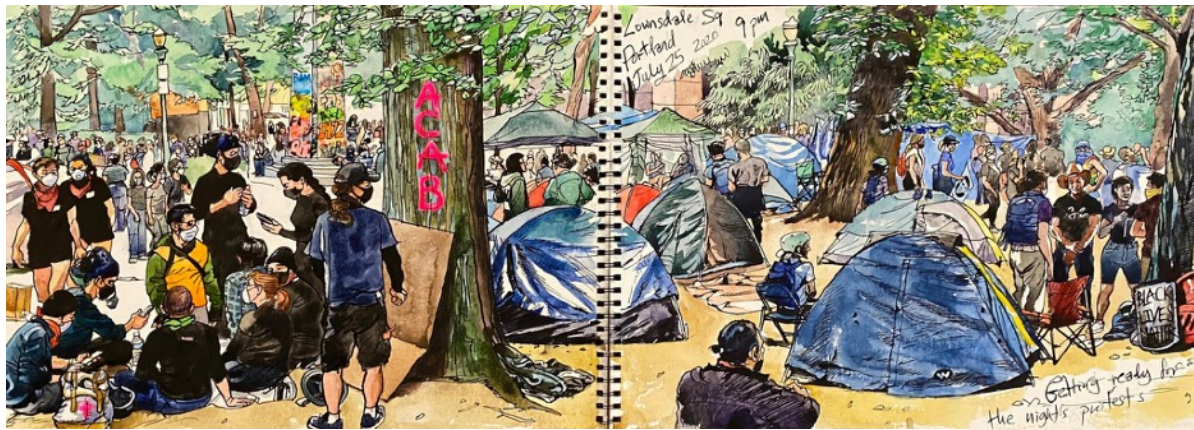
Steve Mumford's "Photojournalists Outside Wyckoff Medical Center, Brooklyn, NY, Apr. 7, 2020," ink and watercolor on paper. Steve Mumford and Postmasters Gallery

During the early years of U.S. military involvement in Iraq and Afghanistan, the New York painter Steve Mumford traveled numerous times to those war-torn countries as an embedded artist with American troops and made drawings he would often turn into oil paintings.

"[Drawings From America's Front Lines](#)" at Postmasters finds Mr. Mumford back in the combat zone — only this time the scenes are shockingly local and recent: New York in the midst of the coronavirus crisis, Black Lives Matter protests and campaign rallies for Donald Trump. A field hospital set up in Central Park for Covid-19 patients brings home the warlike trauma of dealing with



the virus, as does a drawing like "Photojournalists Outside Wyckoff Medical Center, Brooklyn, NY, Apr. 7, 2020," an ink and watercolor work on paper depicting a scene of a virus hot spot. Other works, like "Anarchists Campsite, Lownsdale Square, Portland, OR, Jul. 25, 2020," and several drawings and watercolors of Trump rallies and supporters capture the tumult of our time.



"Anarchists Campsite, Lownsdale Square, Portland, OR, Jul. 25, 2020," pencil, ink and watercolor on paper. Steve Mumford and Postmasters Gallery

Rendered in pencil, ink and watercolor Mr. Mumford's drawings — including texts from overheard conversations — are reports from the field, but also vividly expressionistic. (He also works from photos taken with his iPhone.) Thousands of photographs of these events are circulating on the internet, but Mr. Mumford's drawings show what it means for an artist — expert draftsman and commentator — to bear witness and document history.

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