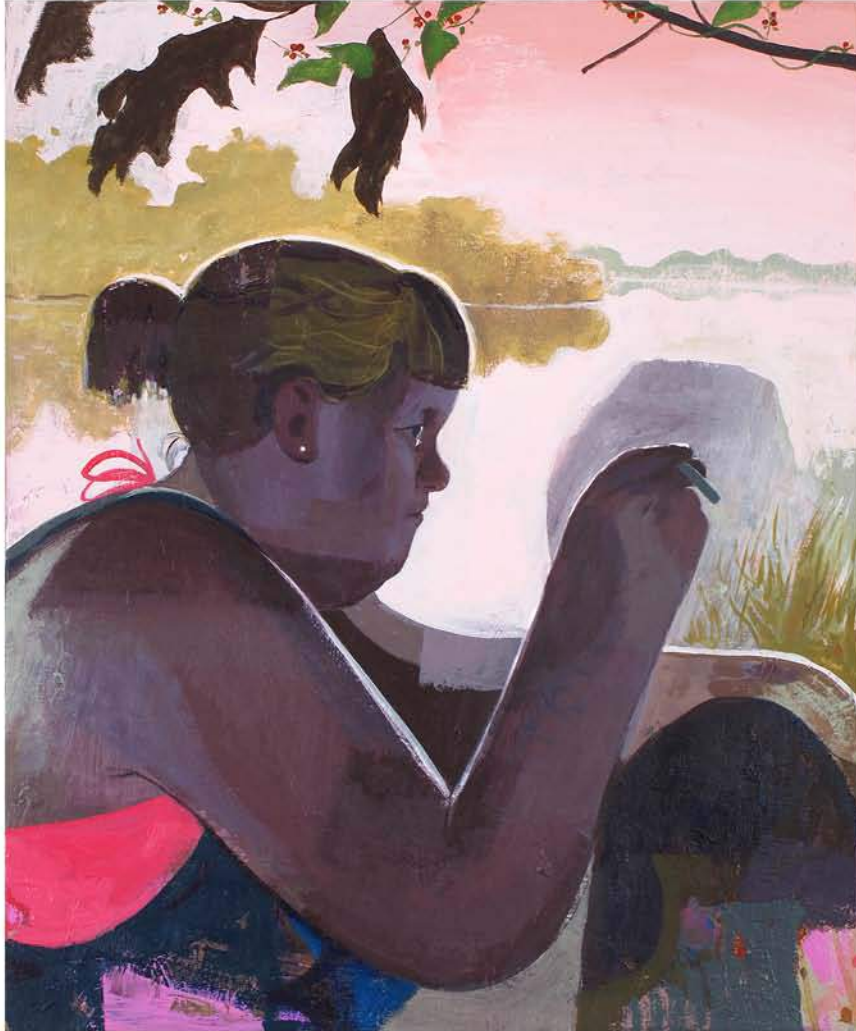


# Frieze

Andrew Durbin, *What to see in East London During Gallery Weekend*, FRIEZE, June 2021



Matt Bollinger, *Under the Oak*, 2020, Flashe and acrylic on canvas, 60 x 50 cm. Courtesy: the artist and mother's tankstation, London/Dublin

Matt Bollinger  
mother's tankstation  
15 April – 12 June

While I liked many of the works presented in this small show (the American artist's first in London), I was mesmerized by the 18-minute video tucked between canvases (*Between the Days*, 2017). Here the artist's subject matter is animated, with stylistically chubby figures shuffling around post-industrial landscapes, between buildings and places often referred to in the US press as 'forgotten'. These images draw from and connect the paintings, which show familiar, chain-smoking ghosts from the US exurbs: women and men hooked to oxygen tanks (*Candy at Home*, 2019) or perusing the local Wal-Mart while security cameras eye their every move (*Entertainment Centre*, 2020). In one scene in the animation, the coloured glass of a front door is painted and repainted, casting strange shadows on the darkened wall of a house – an eerie minute or so that evoked both the haunted houses of *Twin Peaks* (1990–91) and the tense suburban nights of *Mare of Easttown* (2021): two shows about evil and loneliness lying beneath the American heartland. A reminder that the era of Donald Trump might only be between acts.