

# THE NEW YORKER

## Robert Bordo

Through Dec. 20.  
Bortolami  
39 Walker St.  
Downtown

If the events of 2019 left you feeling shattered, you're not alone—this veteran New York painter spent the past year working on a series he calls "crackup (crackdown)." Nine canvases in moody greens and blues, ranging in height from an imposing seven feet to an intimate twenty inches, depict the kind of central rupture and spidery pattern that a rock makes when thrown through a window. Bordo's imagery is an apt metaphor for our current, contentious political climate, but his true subject is painting itself: how easily it can tip realism into abstraction or shift figure-ground relations until it's impossible, in this contemplative show, to discern whether you're on the inside looking out or vice versa. In an adjacent room, Bordo presents "Sotto Voce," a selection of fifteen small works by like-minded artists, more than half of them painters, including Cecily Brown, Raoul de Keyser, and the irrepressible Joyce Pensato.

— Andrea K. Scott

