

October 7, 2018

# THE NEW YORKER

Art: Galleries – Uptown

## *Vivian Springford*

Thinned paint poured with a steady hand onto raw canvas produced the radiant works in this oasis of an exhibition, most of them made in the early nineteen-seventies. Springford, who died in 2003, is not a prominent name in the annals of mid-century American abstraction, and her stained compositions—bold amoeba-like forms with rippled edges in intoxicating sunset and Easter-egg hues—arrive as something of a revelation. (The approach evolved from an interest in Action painting and Taoist calligraphy, in the nineteen-fifties.) In the paintings here, Springford is clearly responding to the color-field movement, evoking the signature “soak stains” of Helen Frankenthaler and hand-dyed psychedelia, but in a steady style that’s all her own.

- *Johanna Fateman*