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What to See in New York Art Galleries This Week

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Ivy Haldeman

Through Oct. 21. Downs & Ross, 96 Bowery, second floor, Manhattan;
646-741-9138, downsross.com.



Ivy Haldeman's "Hand, Index Forward Left" (2018), from her new show, "The Interesting Type." Downs & Ross

You could focus on how clever they are. The sexy anthropomorphic hot dogs that Ivy Haldeman paints in gauzy near-silhouette with a limited palette of colors borrowed from an old [Gahan Wilson](#) cartoon could be sendups of advertising or American gender roles. Matter-of-fact descriptive titles like "Colossus, Ankles Cross, Hand Hooks Heel, Finger Tips Press Bun," by emphasizing their cheeky what-you-see-is-what-you-get quality, nudge them into the self-conscious realm of paintings about painting, too.

But what's striking about the works in her show, "[The Interesting Type](#)," isn't so much their density of double entendre as how effervescently charming they are. What they're *about*, I think, if anything, is that magical something of sex, art, femininity, or even good advertising that no analysis can ever quite capture.

But alongside three of these hot dogs and a new series of doubled women's business suits, the show also includes two wonderful paintings of women's hands. In "Hand, Index Forward Left," the subject is relaxed and assertive, its middle and index fingers striding along with perfect freedom. In "Hand, Index Linger Back," those same two fingers, by crossing demurely, pin that ineffable something down: It's the seductive lie that's also a wish. WILL HEINRICH