

"Michelle Grabner at James Cohan Gallery, New York," *Mousse*,  
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# MOUSSE

Michelle Grabner at James Cohan Gallery, New York  
October 17~2014



# JAMES COHAN GALLERY



James Cohan Gallery is pleased to present the gallery's debut exhibition with Michelle Grabner.

Grabner, a Chicago based artist, is well known most recently for being one of three curators of the Whitney Biennial 2014. This gallery exhibition is the most comprehensive presentation of the artist's work in New York to date.

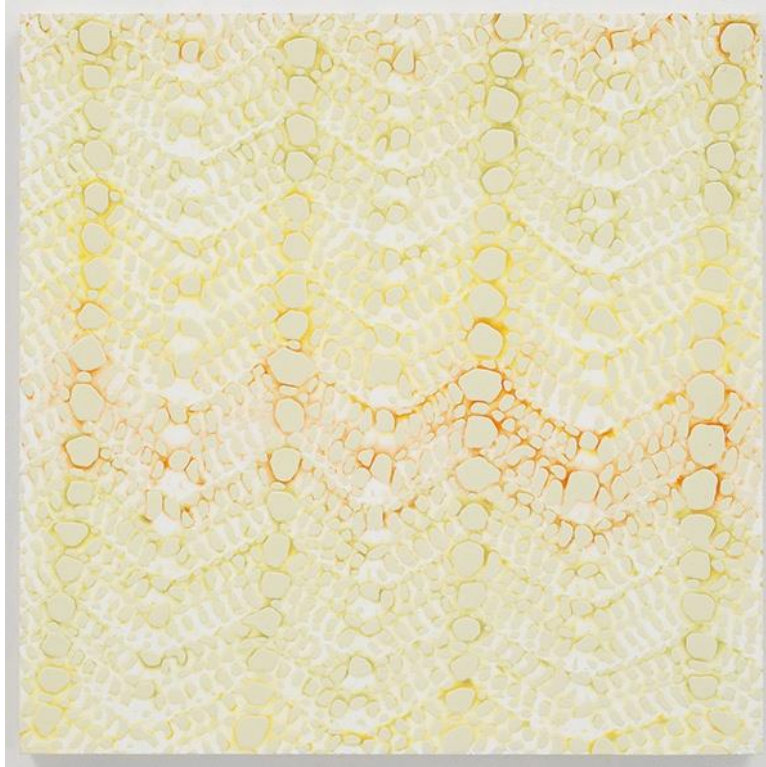
With a career spanning over 30 years, Michelle Grabner has dedicated herself to identifying, indexing and transposing patterns. Her mother tongue is that of abstraction and her vocabulary comes from the domestic materials that are close at hand. Grabner came of age as a painter during the 1980s, an era of questioning and appropriation, but her use of tablecloths, bed linens and blankets was less about signifiers, a considerable corner of discourse in that era, and more about the impulse to copy. Pedagogical theory—ideas of making and remaking, inheriting knowledge and passing it on—grew in her practice alongside her work as a longtime art educator. When her son Peter returned home from kindergarten one day with a two-color paper weaving, Grabner decided to make her own. After 20 years, Grabner continues to make these weavings, which not only underscore her concepts about elemental compositions and process, but also seem to satisfy another impulse—productivity.

The exhibition features a survey of new work including pattern paintings, paper weavings, photographs, and a collaborative hanging sculpture made with her husband Brad Killam. Grabner employs found compositions such as radial symmetry, gingham weave, and simple warp-and-weft patterns using such straightforward materials as gesso, construction paper, burlap, garbage cans and kitchen implements. Referring to the restraint that runs throughout Grabner's work, artist and colleague Molly Zuckerman-Hartung admires "her commitment to producing a body of work minimal enough to allow projection and profound enough to invite immersion."

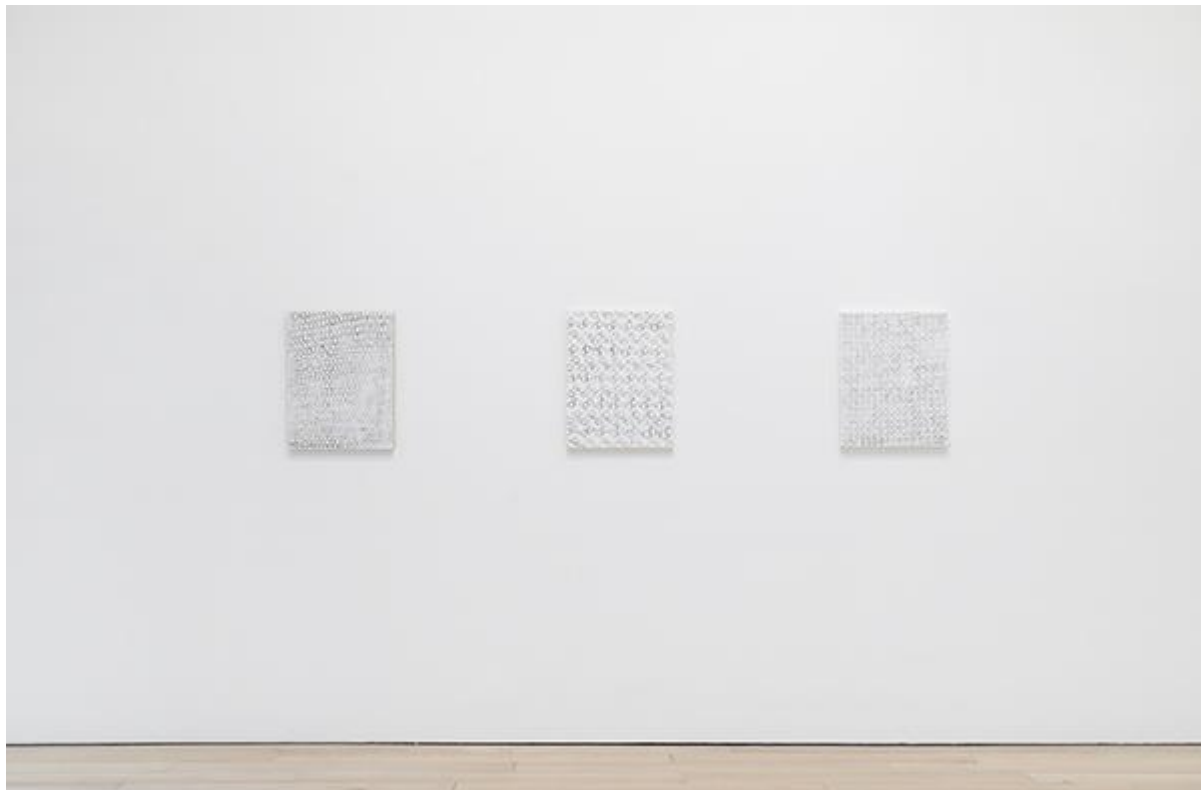
Propelled by an interest in collaboration and community, Grabner and Killam built these values into their practices by founding two project spaces: The Suburban, located in the backyard of their Oak Park, Illinois home, and its rural outpost, The Poor Farm in Waupaca County, Wisconsin. As a tenured professor at the Art Institute of Chicago, a seasoned curator, and a frequent contributor to Artforum and other publications, Grabner's relationship to studio work is enriched by her participation in these many dimensions of the art world.

at James Cohan Gallery, New York  
until 8 November 2014

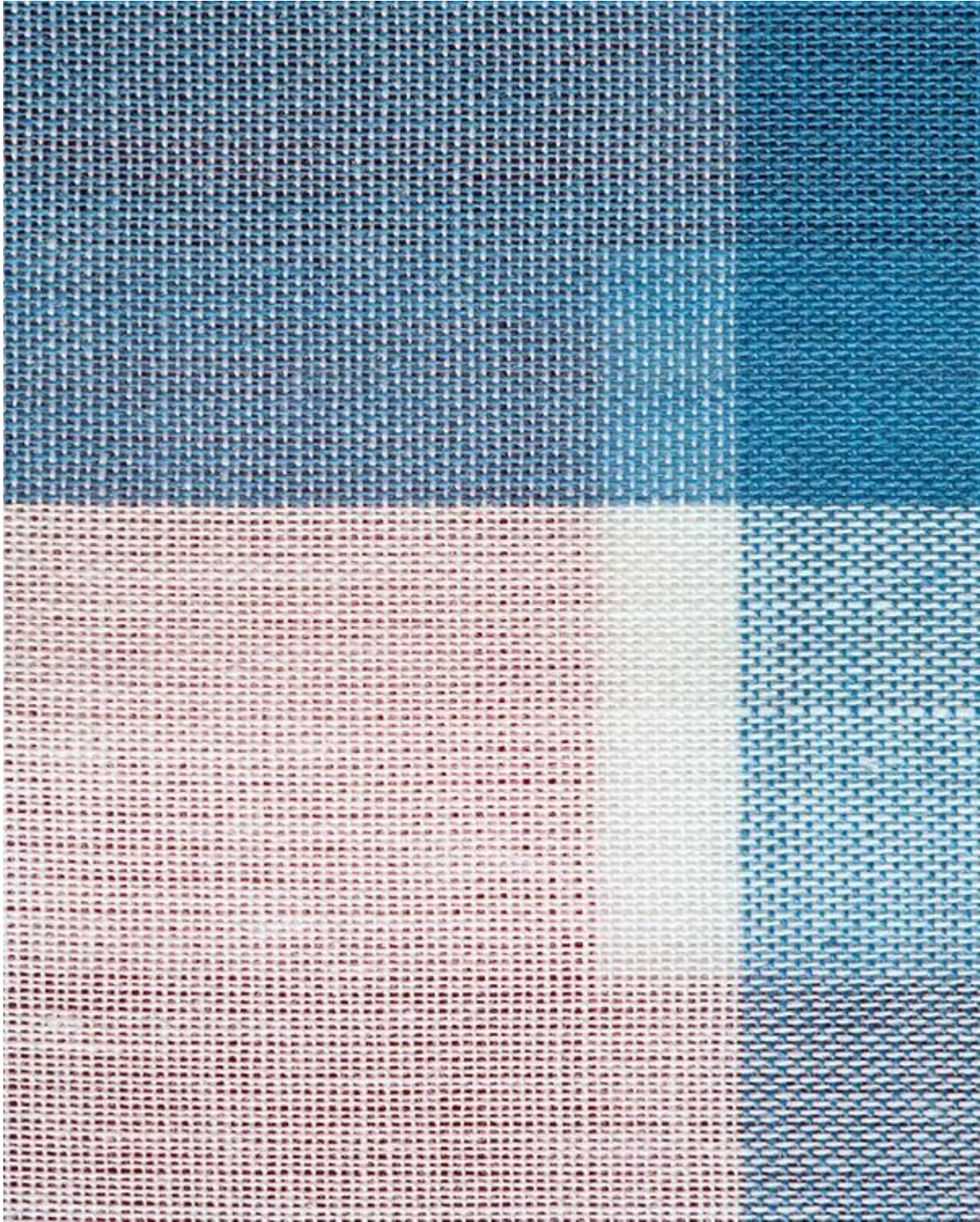
# JAMES COHAN GALLERY



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JAMES COHAN GALLERY

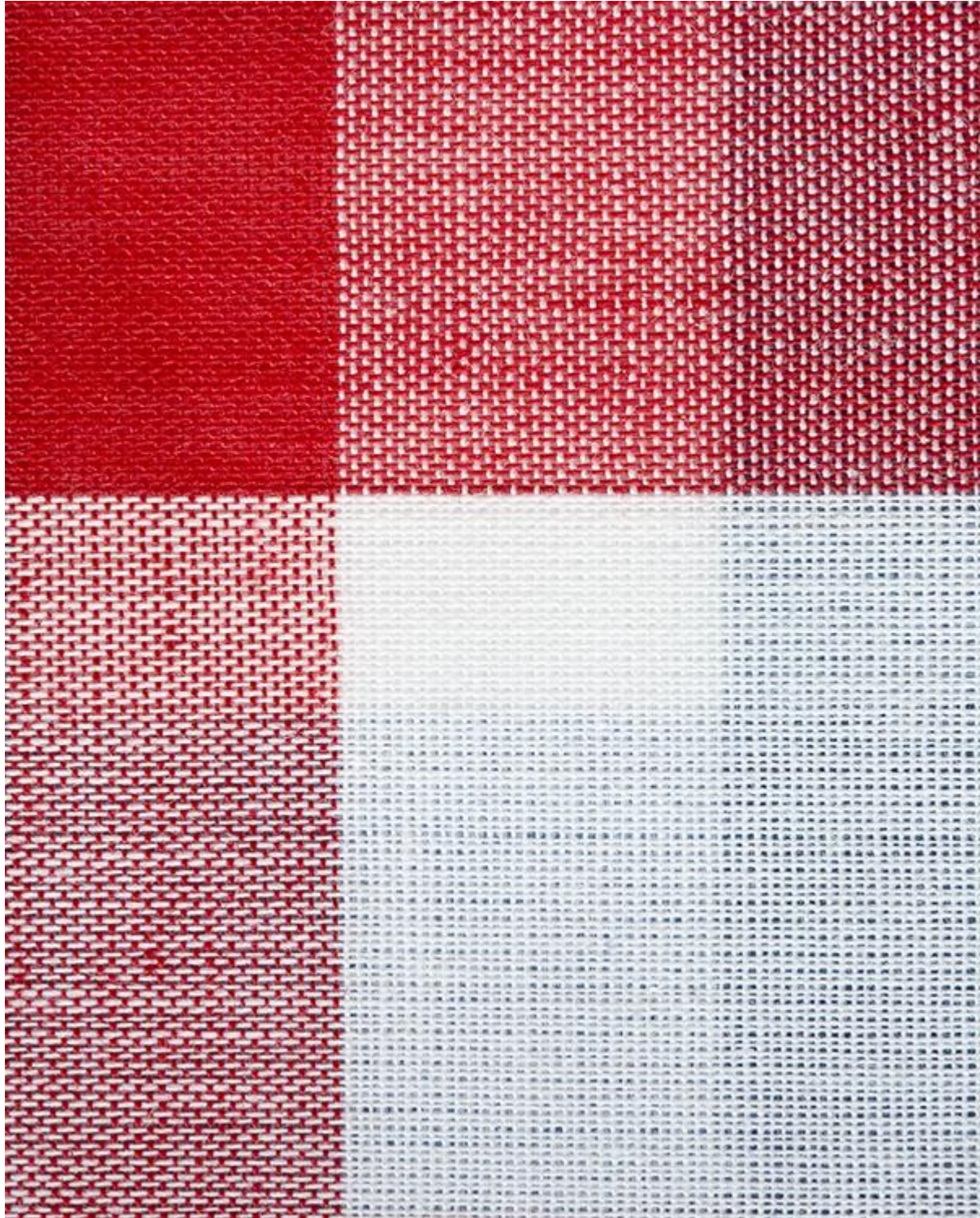


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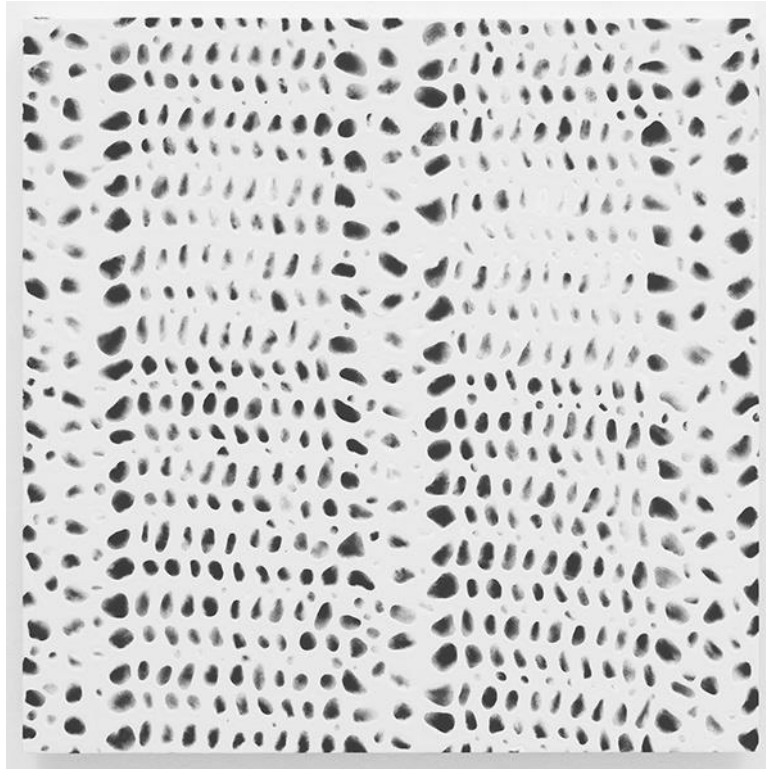


JAMES COHAN GALLERY



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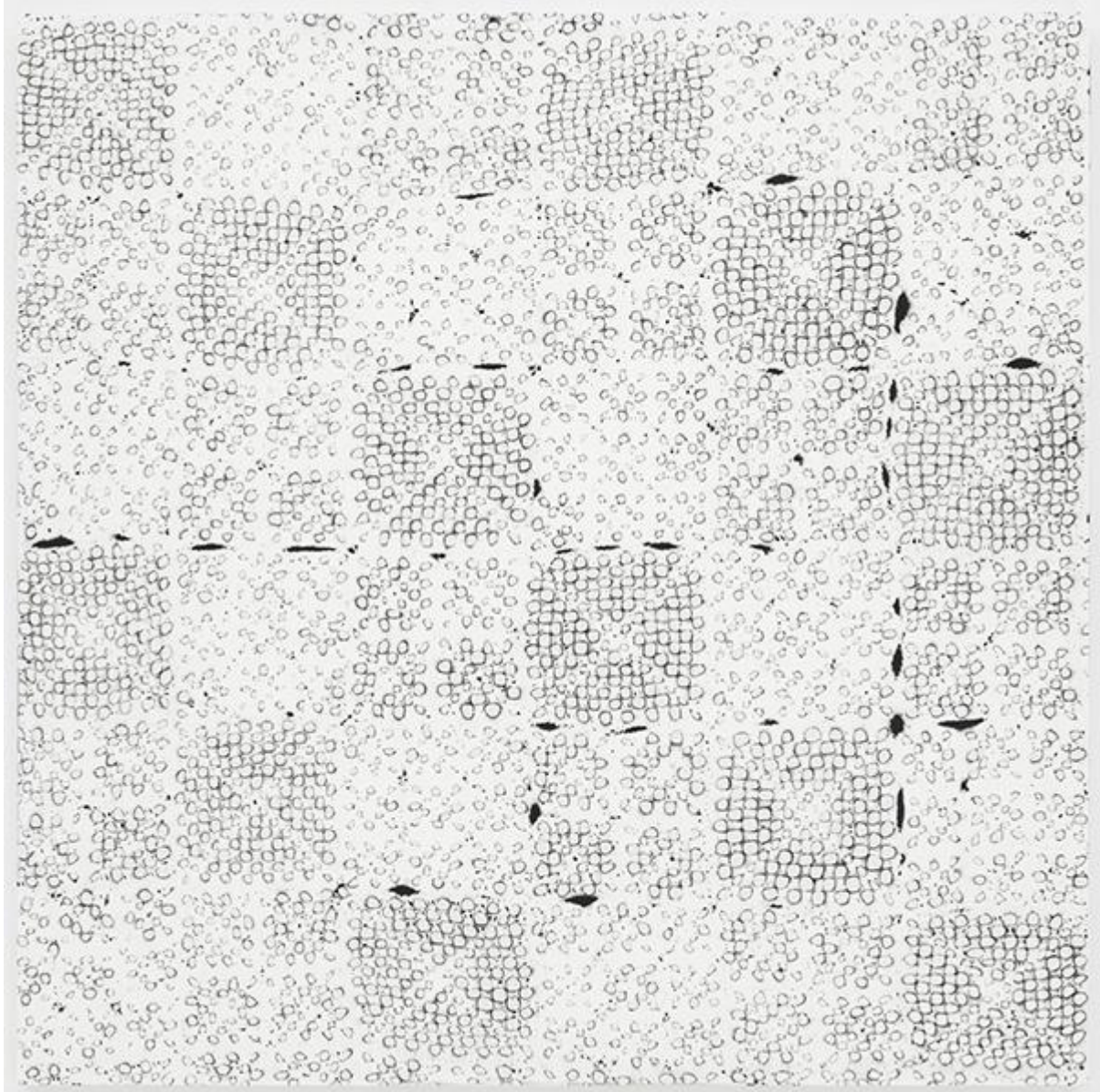
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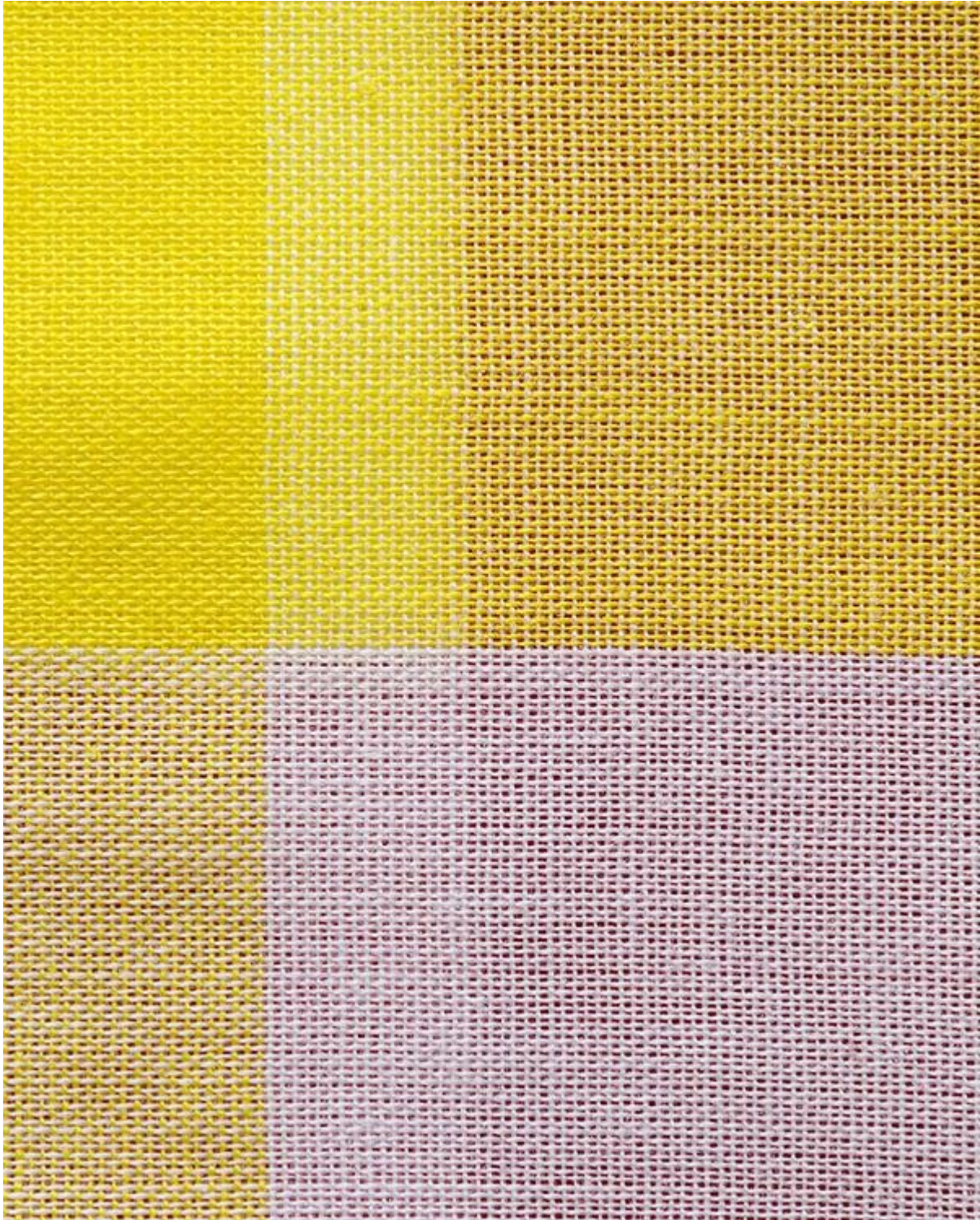
*Untitled, 2014*



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*Untitled, 2014*

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*Untitled, 2014*

Michelle Grabner installation views at James Cohan Gallery, New York, 2014

Courtesy: James Cohan Gallery, New York