

METRO PICTURES

Fateman, Johanna. "Goings On About Town," *NewYorker.com* (November 20, 2021).

THE NEW YORKER

ART

Paulina Olowska

Earlier this year, Helene Winer and Janelle Reiring announced that they were closing Metro Pictures, the gallery that they co-founded, marking the end of an era. Its first exhibition, which opened in November, 1980, was a group show of artists—Cindy Sherman, Laurie Simmons, and Robert Longo among them—who went on to define their generation. Now Metro Pictures signs off with a solo exhibition by Paulina Olowska. In a short video and large, lush oil paintings, the Polish artist draws on both American and Eastern European popular culture, notably fashion photography, to memorialize women's collectives. In the show's title work, "Haus Proud," four young women (who might be taken for members of a New Wave band) stand before a mural that pays tribute to Soviet technical schools but is stencilled with graffiti that reads "capitalism also depends on domestic labour." Another canvas combines a social-realist subject with a glam-squad perspective, portraying a pair of broom-wielding cleaners as runway models. In a sly homage to the gallery's swan song, Olowska accessorizes one of the women with a metal pail emblazoned with the word "Metro."

—*Johanna Fateman*