

ArtReview

Martin Herbert's pick of exhibitions to see in January & February



Ellen Gronemeyer, Anton Kern, New York, through 24 February

It may be that with reality fluxing so violently right now, metamorphosis is the new fixed. That's the tenor one gets from Ellen Gronemeyer's new paintings at Anton Kern. The Berlin-based German painter, who's developed an out-of-time style that's cartoonish and sour – at once mildewed in tone, grainy in texture and percolating with detail, full of round-faced child-adults and animals – here hangs up six new canvases featuring adults, children and pets either contemplating or, indeed, merging into each other. The works, we're informed, 'live off the contradictory energies of what is possible and what is imaginary' – categories themselves that are unfixed; they pull us back to childhood, and childhood into adulthood. Gronemeyer's works, murky at first but quick to get under the skin, may be, as fellow painter Daniel Richter opined in one interview about her work, 'not zeitgeisty', but that doesn't mean they don't suit the times.