

TIBOR DE NAGY GALLERY

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Jane Freilicher is a New York treasure whose breezily gawky, thoroughly lovely landscapes, cityscapes, and still-lives, painted at her apartment on lower Fifth Avenue and at her house in Water Mill, on Long Island, have been keeping us intimate company for some sixty years. A pocket retrospective of her work, at the Tibor de Nagy gallery, celebrates her historic role as a friend and a muse—the moll—of the poets Frank O'Hara, John Ashbery, James Schuyler, and Kenneth Koch, when all were new to the city, in the early fifties. Photographs, letters, manuscripts, and two comic films (by the late Rudy Burckhardt) vivify the charmed circle, for which Freilicher set a tone of ineffable wit, a sugar-free sweetness that made high sophistication seem a snap. Her paintings exude an alertness to subtle, passing joys. Among several poems that O'Hara wrote to or about her, one ends, "she is not dangerous or rare, / adventure precedes her like a train, / her beauty is general, as sea and air / are secretly near, like Jane."
—Peter Schjeldahl



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