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Three to see: New York

Contemporary painting, from figuration to abstraction

by VICTORIA STAPLEY-BROWN | 22 June 2017

Head to the Matthew Marks gallery to catch Ellsworth Kelly: Last Paintings (until 24 June), which shows the artist's last nine works, completed before he died in December 2015, aged 92. The concise exhibition neatly reveals Kelly's unwavering commitment to his exploration of the power of colour and form across his entire career. Some works have many colours, like Spectrum IX (2014), made of twelve joined vertical panels; others are made of joined monochrome panels, like four works made in black and white. In a subtler contrast, the only work with a single panel, Diagonal Curve (2015), which is all white, stands out against the gallery's white walls, which reveal themselves to be a different colour—almost like Malevich's Suprematist Composition: White on White (1918).