

# **HYPERALLERGIC**

Sensitive to Art & its Discontents

## **Fortuitous Paintings, Between Plan and Action**

by [Howard Hurst](#) on October 20, 2014



Installation view of Amy Feldman's 'High Signs' (all photographs courtesy of Blackston)

Among the crop of painting shows that opened this season in New York, Amy Feldman's *High Signs* is particularly notable for its visual impact and irreverent sense of humor. The front room of Blackston offers five large scale paintings in Feldman's signature gray and white barrage of spontaneously doodled canvases. Daubed quickly in vigorous gray paint, there is a sense of immediacy and of action committed in the heat of the moment. Splashes, drips, and flurries of the brush inundate the otherwise matte gray surfaces. Each painting is enacted in one sitting, often times after lightly sketching her plan of attack and meditating on the surface. This practice might be viewed as a re-enactment of sorts, a conjuring of juvenile, casual energies. Each of these paintings begins with a series of sketches in sharpie marker on notebook paper. The translation from sketchy daydream to fully realized painting seems somewhat like a performance in its own right. This is a reimagining; the result is like looking