

BEST OF 2018

THE ARTISTS' ARTISTS

TO TAKE STOCK OF THE PAST YEAR, *ARTFORUM* ASKED AN INTERNATIONAL GROUP OF ARTISTS TO SELECT A SINGLE EXHIBITION OR EVENT THAT MOST MEMORABLY CAPTURED THEIR EYE IN 2018.



Polina Barskaya, *Alex Resting*, 2017, acrylic on panel, 16 × 20".

VALERIE HEGARTY

Polina Barskaya (Monya Rowe Gallery, New York) Barskaya's show "Brightwater Avenue" was the antidote to the hollow-resounding, oversize, and over-produced painting exhibitions of the past year. Recalling Morandi in scale, color, and focus, Barskaya shuffles and reshuffles her subjects: herself and her husband, furniture, blankets, books, plants, windows, and light. Each modestly scaled canvas is a portal into the artist's private life, and she stares back at the viewer directly and inscrutably in moments of repose. Time slows down within the accumulations of brushed observations in Bonnardesque strokes—the paintings offer interior echoes that grow exponentially, much like the *matryoshka* dolls from the artist's native Ukraine.