

# ARTFORUM



Barnaby Furnas, *Rally No. 2 (The Octopus)*, 2018, dispersed pigments, acrylic, colored pencil, and pencil on linen, 65 1/2 x 51 1/2".

## **Barnaby Furnas**

MARIANNE BOESKY GALLERY

Barnaby Furnas's recent exhibition "Frontier Ballads" explored stereotypes of American national identity, from the deceptively romantic ideals of the Wild West to the terrifying reality of Trump rallies. All but one of the twelve paintings portrayed white figures, and subjects were repeated throughout. The show included two works depicting Mount Rushmore, two of women singing and holding farming tools (echoing the composition of Grant Wood's *American Gothic*, 1930), and two of men with lassos riding large steeds. The viewer first encountered *The Gunslinger*, 2018, in which the image of a cowboy's silhouette and firearm are duplicated and layered to suggest the rapid movement of a motion-picture projection. As the artist recalled our country's glorified history of violence, the show's narrative, which took on the presidency of Donald Trump, became increasingly forceful.

Furnas created

— Alex Garner