

# THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

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***Adam Bartos***

Gitterman Gallery 41 E. 57th St. Through May 31



For this body of work, Adam Bartos went to local speedways in upstate New York, in Florida and New Mexico, where stock cars are raced by their owners on quarter-mile dirt tracks for the thrill and glory, and very little money. The 12 medium-format pigment prints on display at Gitterman are pictures of motors, wheel-wells, bucket seats, floorboards and beat-up sections of auto bodies. These photographs aren't the paeans to immaculately maintained industrial equipment that Albert Renger-Patzch took between the two World Wars; they are somber appreciations of the efforts men are willing to devote to beloved machines.

The framing is very tight; a motor is the subject of "Citrus County Speedway, Inverness, FL" (2013), and that is all we see; there is nothing not under the hood that might provide context. The colors are the deeply saturated brown of rust, the black of rubber hoses and peeling paint, the gray of the metal exposed where the paint has worn off, and the reds of a thin hose that snakes down the left side of the picture and of a plastic distributor cap in the upper right-hand corner. The engine parts are presented as an abstract composition.

"Orange County Fair Speedway, Middletown, NY" (2012) is similar, but the virginal white of a new air filter surmounts the engine block like a halo. In "Lebanon Valley Speedway, West Lebanon, NY" (2011), the red paint on the sheet metal used to repair the floorboard has been worn off from hard use.

—William Meyers