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WORDS ARE ALL WE HAVE: PAINTINGS BY JEAN-MICHEL BASQUIAT
MAY 2 – JUNE 11, 2016

DEPARTURES

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Art & Culture

By REBECCA MILZOFF

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25 Things to Do this May



May 2–June 11: Jean-Michel Basquiat in New York

It's called semantic satiation: Repeat a word enough times and it will begin to lose its meaning. Jean-Michel Basquiat's powerful list-centric paintings from the mid-'80s, subject of the exhibition "Words Are All We Have," at Nahmad Contemporary, in New York, produce a visual equivalent of that effect. "He uses words like brushstrokes," says curator Dieter Buchhart. "And when you speak them aloud, you can hear a kind of sound poem." 980 Madison Ave.; 646-449-9118; nahmadcontemporary.com. —Julian Sancton

<http://www.departures.com/art-culture/things-to-do-this-may/2>