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Frieze New York Opens Strong, But the Real Test Is Just Beginning

The fair delivered early sales across price points, from seven-figure placements to more modest Focus section discoveries, though the rhythm this year is far from bombastic.

By [Elisa Carollo](#) • 05/14/26 12:23pm



Andrew Edlin at Frieze New York. Courtesy the gallery

[...] An absolute must-see in the Galleries section, as ever, is [Andrew Edlin's](#) booth, which offers some of the most refreshing outsider perspectives at the fair. Standing out are the mysterious astronomical diagrams and cosmological

codes by Karla Knight, whose invented languages and satellite-like forms imagine systems of knowledge from elsewhere. Building her own linguistic system of glyphs, diagrams, orbs, satellites and cosmic structures, she creates a visual language hovering between an occult manuscript, a scientific chart, a children's code and an extraterrestrial transmission. Her paintings and tapestry-like works are priced at \$30,000-50,000, including one recently shown at SITE Santa Fe International in a presentation curated by Cecilia Alemani. Resonating with them is the delightfully mysterious storytelling of human-alien encounters in paintings by cartoonist and author Esther Pearl Watson, capturing both the neo-mythologies and vernacular melodrama of American life. [...]