

Johanna Fateman, *Kyoko Idetsu*
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ART

Kyoko Idetsu

The title of this Japanese painter's show, "I want to wear a warm sweater," signals her guileless, declaratory approach to figuration. Idetsu's subjects—child rearing, housework, illness, the news—are rooted in everyday observations, as reflected in the first-person texts printed in an accompanying handout and written directly onto the walls. The words near a small, busy scene evoking a day-care center read "A child in potty training was fidgeting, looking like she had to pee." But mundane doesn't mean simple in Idetsu's ambitious representation of the conventionally unheroic domestic sphere. "Job relocation," a nearly eight-foot-long piece, conveys a woman's distress at a sudden change in her husband's employment in three images: a face swollen with tears, the exterior of a house, and a fraught parent-teacher conversation. The figure of the protagonist—the mother—stretches across the triptych. The effect is powerful, suggesting the narrative unfolding in her own racing mind.

—*Johanna Fateman*

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