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West Street Gallery



Right now, by appointment, you can catch a great little show in an apartment/gallery space on the West Side Highway called [West Street Gallery](#), featuring the work of four very talented young artists. The salon-style arrangement is less salon and more a complete take-over of the small apartment, which has been put to good use by curators Alex Gartenfeld (who lives in the space), Matt Moravec and Joel Mesler (who sublets and runs the Spare Room, which is literally a spare room in the apartment). In the Spare Room, Ryan Sullivan's visually arresting paintings command the viewer in, and upon closer inspection one gets a sense of the serious process involved here. Sullivan's words on the process reveal his curiosity and possibly an inner mage: "In general my philosophy is to use the physical properties of paint to guide the work. The vast majority of painting follows fairly rigid technical guidelines... if you don't follow them, paint does unpredictable things; it cracks, changes color, wrinkles... The pieces in this show are all made differently, but all three turn traditional technique on its head in order to make use of the natural — almost alchemical — tendencies of paint itself."

The work of Kon Trubkovich also demands a closer look. After a minute of being certain that these are really fantastic prints, you realize they are, impossibly, hand-drawn. Culled from video stills of a film he made using old surveillance cameras and drawn with charcoal pencils, the work is incredibly precise, regardless of the fact that what is depicted is completely abstract. Gartenfeld and Moravec scattered them around the space "to create the effect of perambulating a cell."

Moving along into the main space, one notices a large patch of scuff marks lining the wall, which you barely register until Gartenfeld explains that this is the work of artist Daniel Turner, who was inspired to produce these marks in direct retaliation to having been prohibited from leaning on the walls of the New Museum, where he was employed as a security guard. The effect is irreverent and, slightly unsettling, if you're someone who's ever used a Mr. Clean Magic Eraser.

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Walking into the main space (which is also the apartment's kitchen), you find that Grayson Revoir's dining table is taking up just about all maneuverable space. This elephant in the room has been screwed and chopped and nailed repeatedly (and somewhat psychotically), making the whole thing completely useless but nonetheless a fantastic center piece for the show.

We're very excited about the West Street Gallery, and look forward to future endeavors, which, according to Gartenfeld, will rotate once a month or month and a half. For now, go have a look on Saturdays, from 11-6, or by appointment. The address is 395 West St., Apt. 2, NY, NY.

This entry was written by Johnny Misheff, posted on July 8, 2010 at 12:28 pm, filed under Art, Exhibits and tagged Alex Gartenfeld, Daniel Turner, Grayson Revoir, Joel Mesler, Kon Trubkovich, Matt Moravec, Ryan Sullivan, West Street Gallery. Bookmark the permalink. Follow any comments here with the RSS feed for this post. Post a comment or leave a [trackback](#): [Trackback URL](#).

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