



THE NEW YORKER

ART GALLERIES—DOWNTOWN

“AAa:Quien”

This two-person show of works by Erica Baum and Libby Rothfeld, who share an interest in palimpsests, is opaque but beguiling. Rothfeld is a young sculptor who combines objects and images—potatoes in laundry baskets, topped with ceramic crowns; a reproduction of a Roman funerary portrait partially obscured by a snapshot of a laundry room—with gravity and precision. (A washcloth nestled into a carved-out section of beige tilework in one work is especially poignant.) In Baum’s beautiful closeup photographs of partially erased blackboards, made during her studies at Yale, in the nineteen-nineties, language plays hide-and-seek, as words arise from smudgy clouds of chalk. In one picture, the phrase “to depth” might serve as a motto for the whole show.