

The New York Times

ART & DESIGN | GALLERIES

What to See in New York Art Galleries This Week

APRIL 6, 2017



One of Matt Hoyt's pocket-size untitled sculptures, from 2014-17, at Bureau. Matt Hoyt

MATT HOYT

Through April 30. Bureau, 178 Norfolk Street, Manhattan; 212-227-2783, bureau-inc.com.

Matt Hoyt makes pocket-size sculptures. Small pinches and loops of off-white clay and sanded putty, they resemble seashells, bird bones or primitive tools. More than anything, when displayed in loose grids on low slate-colored tables, they also look like reconstructed fossils. But because they wax and wane over years in Mr. Hoyt's studio, gaining patches and appendages in a half-dozen shades of gray, it's usually impossible to guess which section of any given piece would have been original.

As evocative as a collection of such highly worked objects can be, there's something forbidding about them, too, a hermetic focus on the artist's labor and process that's not particularly open to outside viewers. So it's exciting that [Mr. Hoyt's current show](#) includes, for the first time, a half-dozen pieces big enough to fill a breadbox. Their forms are similar to their smaller forebears': one particularly beautiful untitled piece is like an S-shaped snail with curving fins; another like the complicated pelvis of some eight-legged mythical bird. The change in scale is minor, but it has an extraordinary effect, transforming what had been a series of quiet whispers into bold, unforgettable statements.

WILL HEINRICH