

# NYACA

**Lucas Blalock, Julia Rommel, Hunks, Bureau, thru Feb. 21.**

New York Art Critics Association

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An unexpected pairing of artists, as sometimes happens with flavors that would seem wholly at odds—chocolate and chili, for example—allows contrast to tease out affinities where they wouldn't otherwise have been apparent, and only go so far, while each retains their own distinct character. Art and food have something in common: taste. Not everyone has it, not everyone is in agreement. As the French say, "À chacun ses goûts." Some pairings are head-scratchers at first. This was one of them. Lucas Blalock's photographic combines, which evidence an anarchic and refined sensibility, and Julia Rommel's materialist abstraction, equally shambolic and reserved, make for a surprise pairing—images subtly constructed and deconstructed, a sort of formalist / deformatist polarity? If mid-winter's dirty gray snow-crust has gotten you down, this show may provide some needed uplift.