

GalleristNY

on view

'Tom Holmes: Piss Yellow / Bars and Stars' at Bureau

By Andrew Russeth | 10/22 4:39pm



Installation view. (Courtesy Bureau)

Tennessee-based artist Tom Holmes continues his improbably fruitful experimentation with the iconography and rituals of junk food and funerals in his second show at **Bureau**, which is the gallery's first in its spacious new Lower East Side digs. Following forays into **Trix** and **Boo Berry** cereals, Mr. Holmes is onto Cheetos. Hanging on three walls are gigantic, foil-papered particle boards—we're talking 14-foot-long each—that are shaped like the snack food's logo and, come to think of it, gargantuan versions of the food itself. They surround cinderblock sculptures—grave sites, presumably. A rectangular one is adorned with the black dots of the brand's guileful mascot, while a square one bears painted mule bones. Mr. Holmes introduces the "Dangerously Cheesy" into life's most solemn subject—this is about as impudent as art can get, and funny in a let's-not-dare-laugh kind of way. Some are likely to see in it an unrepentant, and perhaps juvenile,

self-indulgence, but let Mr. Holmes's strange logic take hold. Savor the way he connects and transforms objects in peculiar ways, as in two shrouds: black-gray and yellow-orange versions of Confederate flags that he has hung so that one top corner of each sags with an almost gallant air, as if it's curtsying or tipping a hat a final time as a body is lowered into the ground. It's one of the weirdest shows in town and worth seeing for that reason alone. (*Through Nov. 10*)