

THE
NEW YORKER

ART GALLERIES—DOWNTOWN

“The Case Against Reality”

Appearances deceive in this show devoted to cropping and closeups in the work of five American artists. Ridley Howard’s precise, pocket-size “Dream Painting, Lugan” deftly juxtaposes a sleeping nude and a misty gray mountain range; the picture, which has shades of Alex Katz-style cool, plays sly pictorial games with mimesis. Milano Chow contributes intricate drawings of architectural details whose subtly disorienting effects undercut their realism. The show’s breakout stars are three ghostly works by Chris Duncan, pieces of red and dark-blue cotton that he exposed to sunlight for so long that they faded into photograms of curtains and windowsills—sacred relics of the day to day.

Through April 8.

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