

VOGUE

CULTURE

It's Spring! Time for Some Art

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“Ryan Johnson” at Marinaro

Ryan Johnson's first show at Marinero is well worth every step up the three very long flights of stairs. (I found the elevator on the way down.) It's a rare treat to see so many of his sly, beautifully crafted, sleek works. They often begin with simple ideas or playful hunches that he meticulously sculpts and sands into smooth, stonelike finishes—yet the sculptures never lose their initial spontaneity. Larger-than-life, very minimal toothbrushes sit on one pedestal; an enormous piece of dark bread with a nibbled hole in the middle proudly stands on another, leaving the crust as a frame. It brings me back to how, as a child, I ate only the soft part of the bread, leaving the crust for the birds. His changes of scale take you by surprise. *Big Wheel*, a tricycle that should be large, is small. He's on very good terms with whatever material he chooses—epoxy clay, steel, or bronze—and he's somehow able to capture implied motion. *Dog Chasing Tail* wins you because he's so close to catching it.

Through May 6