

# KALEIDOSCOPE

BLOG



Chris Wiley, "Dingbats," installation view at Nicelle Beauchene Gallery, New York, 2014  
Courtesy of the artist and Nicelle Beauchene Gallery, New York

**VISIT: Chris Wiley at Nicelle Beauchene Gallery, New York  
June 13 2014, 3:00 PM**

**Chris Wiley** is one of those rare individuals able to balance professional criticality (he's an accomplished writer, curator and editor, including time served as both a contributor and editor-at-large for *Kaleidoscope*) with the receptivity needed to sustain a progressive creative practice. In his visual output, which encompasses both photography and framed sculptural objects, Wiley draws from the unassuming, often overlooked corners of his surroundings, producing textured, geometric compositions out of isolated environmental details. "**Dingbats**," his current offering at Nicelle Beauchene, finds Wiley's eye fixed on a tawdry, faux-modernist brand of architecture ubiquitous to Southern California. Offsetting the garish, ersatz quality of his subjects with thoughtful arrangements and vibrant presentation, the work embodies the balance of aesthetic aspiration and synthetic approximation that characterizes so much of American culture. Central to the series is the idea of framing; literally, in that Wiley has mounted his prints onto sculptural supports overlaid with materials appropriated from home décor (stucco, Formica, fake alligator skin, vinyl flooring, etc.), but also in the sense that, in reducing his view to isolated details and discovered arrangements, Wiley treats his lens less as a window than an enclosure, offering a fresh view of common subjects while reaffirming photography's status as an act of construction in every sense of the word. (Christopher Schreck)

"Dingbats," Chris Wiley's exhibition at Nicelle Beauchene Gallery, New York, runs through June 22

[Source: <http://kaleidoscope-press.com/2014/06/visitchris-wileyat-nicelle-beauchene-gallery-new-york/>]