

7 Must-See Gallery Shows in New York: Ruby Sky Stiler, Sadamasa Motonaga, and More

BY SCOTT INDRISEK | DECEMBER 16, 2015



Installation view of Ruby Sky Stiler's "Figures, Fragments, and Open Form" at Nicelle Beauchene Gallery. (Nicelle Beauchene Gallery)

Jeff Williams at Jack Hanley Gallery, and Ruby Sky Stiler at Nicelle Beauchene Gallery, both through December 20 (327 Broome Street)

Downstairs, Williams presents a series of distinct sculptures that seem somehow keyed into each other, like a ramshackle Rube Goldberg machine threading through the space. Natural materials appear synthetic, and vice versa, as with a mass of extruded thermal plastic that resembles a skull or shell, and hunks of “central Texas fossil” that might have been hewn by the artist, rather than the passing of time. One work, imposing as a highway barricade and titled “Black

Hole,” is described as a “fiberglass and resin physics chalkboard sanded down to reveal its cast surface and steel support.” This sense of strange artifacts uncovered continues with Ruby Sky Stiler’s show upstairs, which pairs elegant drawing-in-space sculptural frames (depicting the basic outlines of heads and bodies) with layered paintings of foam, acrylic resin, and thermal adhesive. The latter are jumbled puzzles composed of faux-ancient architectural shards; occasionally the patterns coalesce into recognizable subjects, as Stiler flirts with the bare minimum of what can constitute a figure.