

Time Out

New York

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Wade Guyton/Kelley Walker, "The Failever of Judgement Part III" Greene Naftali, through Mar 26 (see Chelsea).

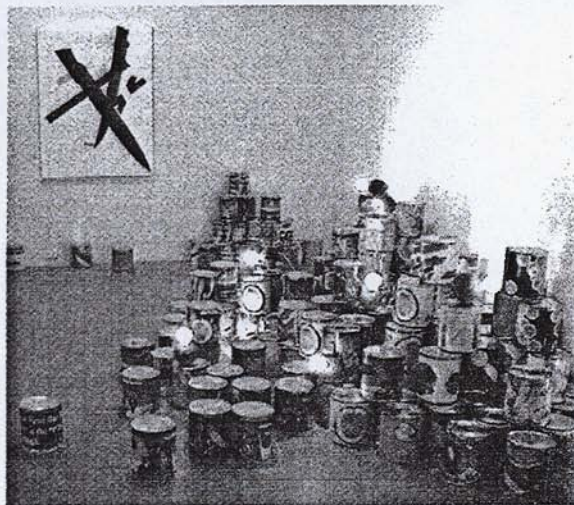
This is the first New York collaboration between Wade Guyton and Kelley Walker, two young artists with separate but equally above-the-radar careers (Guyton was included in the 2004 Whitney Biennial and Walker is represented by Paula Cooper Gallery). At the entrance to the show, Guyton and Walker install cryptic flags, propagating the work of the art collective Reena Spaulings (similar banners were recently on view at Haswelllediger & Co.). The main installation highlights

26 silk-screen paintings that ape the Gothic-style graphics (and the tag line) of Ketel One vodka ads. It also incorporates a reflective glass partition, light fixtures made from coconuts and stacks of store-bought paint cans with custom-made labels.

A dialectic emerges between the vocabulary of mass production and the criteria of art. Guyton and Walker appear to thumb their noses at fine art refinement even as they craftily employ it (witness the Dan Graham-like glass wall). Playing a shell game with context, the artists try to have it both ways and the result is a show that, at times, threatens to do little more than chase its own tail.

Salvation comes in the form of that reflexive partition, which ruptures the field of vision as it serves to separate a room filled with the poster-style canvases from the rest of the installation. Offering the viewer a glimpse of doppelgänger, it divides individual into self and alter ego, an inversion of Guyton and Walker's merged artistic identity. The clue to solving this puzzle of a show might just be your own image staring back at you.

—Max Henry



Wade Guyton / Kelley Walker, installation view of "The Failever of Judgement Part III."