

2% the two percent

April 24, 2013

The best contemporary art exhibitions in New York City

Just Added: Cordy Ryman @ Dodge Gallery

Brightly colored 2x4s seem thrown together without intention or care, as if they were painted at a party with bad lighting and too much alcohol, and then cut and assembled with power tools that were low on batteries. But they're not. They may be the smartest works on view now.

The more you look, the more you see. These wall sculptures (though it's probably more accurate to call them 3D paintings), sneak up on you with their unpretentious humility and then hold your eyes with all sorts of happy surprises. Notice how the florescent paint projects itself like an aura onto the wall (or in the white piece above, onto the right side of the triangle), or how a manufacturer's stamp on the wood is used in the overall composition while alternating bands of new and old wood create a sort of harmonious chord. Look longer and you'll find more; EVERYTHING in each of these works is carefully considered, but it's that initial deception of sloppiness that makes these smart works feel so approachable, and such a pleasant surprise.

Cordy Ryman: *Adaptive Radiation*, is on view at Dodge Gallery (15 Rivington St) through May 12, 2013.



Cordy Ryman, *Triple Cop-Out*, 2013, acrylic, enamel and shellac on wood, 20 x 20 x 3 inches. Photo: Jason Mandalla