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Blake Gopnik's Latest Sightings

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Daily Pic: Sam Moyer's Domesticated Brutalism



The young artist Sam Moyer has installed this work at [Rachel Uffner Gallery](#) in New York. The bottom is a huge plane of gray-veined marble that floats above the floor; the top is a distressed canvas that also acts as a translucent scrim, with theatrical lighting placed above it to illuminate the room. The obvious comparison is to [Richard Serra's "Delineator,"](#) from 1975, where one massive plate of steel sits on the floor and another like it gets affixed to the ceiling, sandwiching the viewer between. But Moyer takes Serra's signature moment in industrial brutalism and crafts its domesticated twin: Her marble is the stuff of deluxe kitchen islands; her scrim evokes faux-finishing and theater sets. Serra's work pretended to be a force of nature; Moyer's doubts that raw nature can have force beyond how we deploy it, as fiction, in high-end culture.

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