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What to See in New York Art Galleries This Week

INVISIBLE MAN

Through June 24. Martos Gallery, 41 Elizabeth Street, Manhattan; 212-560-0670, martosgallery.com.

Martos Gallery's director, Ebony L. Haynes, named [the inaugural exhibition](#) at its new Chinatown home after Ralph Ellison's 1952 novel, "Invisible Man," whose hero is invisible because people "refuse to see" him. A grouping of spare works by Torkwase Dyson, Kayode Ojo, Pope.L and Jessica Vaughn, this show is a brilliant solution to the contemporary art-world version of the same problem, demonstrating how to show work in a way that includes but is not limited to its makers' blackness.



Pope.L's "Well (elh version)," a series of small ledges bearing water glasses that must be topped up with eyedroppers every day by gallery employees.

Pope.L, Martos Gallery and Mitchell-Innes & Nash, N.Y.

If you stare across the room at Ms. Vaughn's inspired display of discarded Chicago Transit Authority train seats, they look interchangeable, but on closer inspection, each seat reveals a distinct pattern of wear. Every two-and-a-half minutes exactly, Pope.L's "Pedestal," an upside-down water fountain bolted to the ceiling, releases a thin jet of water into a hole in the floor. It's a disquieting meditation on the nature of time — endlessly replenished but endlessly fleeting — made more ominous by "Well (elh version)," a series of small ledges bearing water glasses that must be topped up with eyedroppers every day by gallery staff.

Each of Ms. Dyson's three white-on-gray paintings is 6 feet wide by 8 feet tall and dominated by a subtle circular pattern applied with plastery strokes of a palette knife. But sharp pencil lines and brighter white wedges cut through this engulfing fog like spirit through flesh. Mr. Ojo's upended brown couch, meanwhile, on which he's draped a silvery sequined prom dress, evokes a fascinating combination of potential and regret. All together it makes for a starkly minimal aesthetic, but one that elevates, instead of eliding, the human body.

WILL HEINRICH