

KATE WERBLE GALLERY

83 VANDAM STREET NEW YORK, NY 10013

ARTINFO

THE AGENDA

ANDREW GOLDSTEIN

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Joel Kyack "River/Stream/In-Between" at Kate Werble Gallery, 83 Vandam Street, opening reception May 7, 6-8 p.m., through June 4, katewerblegallery.com

The fountain has an august history in art, from the exquisitely carved marvels in filling the Alhambra in Spain through the witty du-haute-en-bas humor of Duchamp's urinal ("Fountain"). Now, for his debut solo show in New York, Los Angeles artist Joel Kyack has taken the form even deeper into the bathroom with a selection of marginally figural sculptures — if you can call taping a balloon, head-like, to the top of a chair figural — that spew and re-spew streams of yellow liquid into buckets in a pee-like loop. The object is in part to comment on "the body and nature as slaves to systems of fluids," according to a gallery statement, examining how the physical human form "fits — and fails to fit — into a world of objects and desires all vying for attention."

As one of the judges who selected Kyack's irreverent display at François Ghebaly Gallery's stand for NADA's Best Booth Prize last December (Kate Werble gallery won the other, synergistically enough), I'll look forward to seeing how this body (pun) of work fares on its own, rather than as part of a more diverse group. Though to be fair, there's a video too, as well as an artwork on the flier that may prove to be the best thing in the show: a photo of the artist standing outside and blissfully draining a beer while simultaneously draining his lizard.

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