

# KATE WERBLE GALLERY

83 VANDAM STREET NEW YORK, NY 10013



THE NEW YORKER

***John Lehr at Kate Werble Gallery***

**Vince Aletti**

**March 8, 2013**

The titles of Lehr's unframed color photographs—"Office Door," "Phone Booth," "Plaque"—are descriptive in a way that his work isn't. His interest is surfaces, especially smeared or damaged glass, layered with remnants of adhesive tape, spray paint, and grime. A scratched-up window with no view looks like a Cy Twombly drawing, but Aaron Siskind's jazzy riffs on Abstract Expressionism would seem to be the key influence here. Although Lehr has an equally keen eye for found abstraction, his work isn't documentary. Digital tweaking alters the surfaces—and what lies beyond them—in subtle and unexpectedly seductive ways. Through March 23.

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