

THE NEW YORKER

“DISPLAYED”

Anton Kern Gallery

Matthew Higgs names a movement. The ever-canny curator convenes eighteen assemblage-makers who share, like a secret handshake, a strategy of presenting motley things with unitary punch. The works include Nancy Shaver’s dazzling whatnot shop of made and found bibelots; B. Wurtz’s consecrations of plastic bags and white socks; Rachel Harrison’s skeletal phone booth that charges faux fur and plastic with hieratic dignity; and Josh Smith’s jerry-rigged stage that spells out his own name. Besides being aesthetically racy, “Displayed” is socially astute and downright metaphysical, bringing an old puzzle of perception—do we behold, chiefly, the dancer or the dance?—to bear on our present besiegement by multitudinous stuff. Through Aug. 22.