

ZIEHERSMITH

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ART REVIEW

Three Gallery Shows to See in New York

By
PETER PLAGENS
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Crawl Space: Mike Womack

ZieherSmith

516 W. 20th St., (212) 229-1088

Through Nov. 12

In 2007, Mike Womack (b. 1976) made a faux cinderblock out of compressed and glued orange Cheetos. Today the artist, who works in Brooklyn but also holds down an assistant professorship in art at the University of Colorado, continues (as gallery material puts it) “mixing conceptual art concerns and modern art aesthetics with the actual substance of everyday materials and constructions.”

In one instance—“Landscape Painting #1 (Dirt),” 2016—in his current show of one-liners on the physical nature of art, Mr. Womack surrounds a small square canvas painted flat bright green with a wide, thick frame of compacted soil. “Landscape Painting #2 (Slab),” 2016, looks at first like a bit of sky painted on the underside of some carpet whose corner has been lifted up; upon further review, the heavens are on the bottom side of a curled cement slab. Mr. Womack also puns upon sculpture pedestals, Constructivist squares, and the early work of Richard Serra.

Mr. Womack’s art veers perilously close to the kind of art that bright undergraduates make in response to a tightly described “do something different” classroom assignment. But his jokes are so economically imagined, so well crafted, and so adroitly staged that they work like gangbusters. One doesn’t often see a witty exhibition that’s so solidly made.



Mike Womack's '3 Sided Square' (2016)

PHOTO: ZIEHERSMITH, NY