

On View | An Artist's Dueling Landscapes



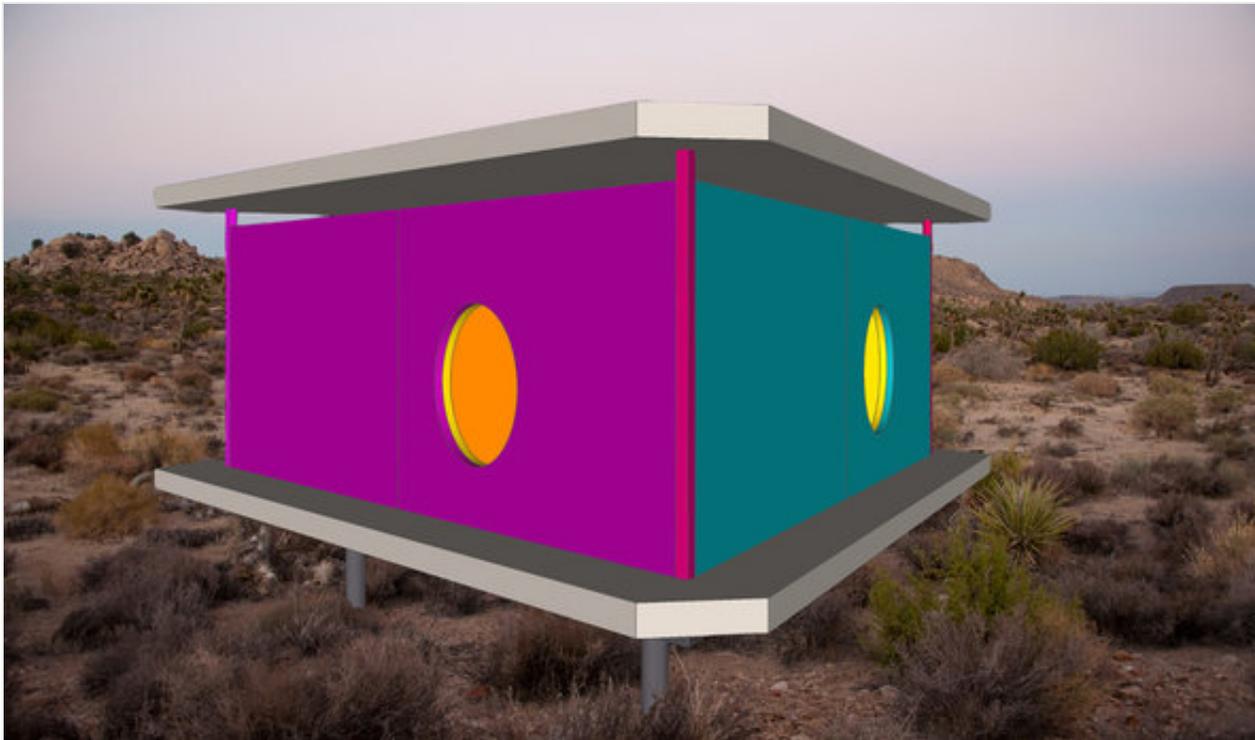
Two views of Halsey Rodman's "Is It Inside You or Are You Inside It?"

What do the streets, storefronts and bodegas of South Williamsburg, Brooklyn, have to do with the deserts of southern California? It's a question that the sculptor Halsey Rodman, who grew up in Davis, Calif., has been considering a lot lately, with two related projects in these radically opposed environments.

First up is the New York show, "Cave System or Ear Canal," on view at [Soloway](#), a plumbing-supply business reborn as an art gallery, where Rodman's pieces blur the edge between interior spaces and the external landscape. "Is It Inside You or Are You Inside It?," the first work that greets viewers, is a painted and perforated sheet of paper that filters sunlight through the storefront into the gallery. Turquoise on one side and red on the other, it cannot be apprehended in unity, a situation Rodman likens to self-recognition: fundamentally split, we construct images of ourselves only by seeing others

seeing us.

The reference was a makeshift device known as a cucoloris: a poster board with triangular apertures used by photographers and filmmakers to temper spotlights. Rodman's version, which also reminds viewers that filters existed long before Instagram, becomes a conduit of sunlight — or, by the gallery's final open hour in these shortened fall days, the sweep of car headlights.



A rendering of “Gradually/We Became Aware ...,” which will be on view at High Desert Test Sites in California beginning Jan. 11.

While the Soloway show lets the streets seep into its urban setting, Rodman's next project will engage with High Desert Test Sites, a Joshua Tree-based venue for public art. Opening Jan. 11, “Gradually/We Became Aware/Of a Hum in the Room” — the title cites Paul Simon's lyrics to a song by Philip Glass — is a triangular building that will welcome visitors in through portholes. (In a situation reminiscent of Rodman's Soloway show, viewers will not be able to see the outside of the piece once they step in.) After several months, the piece will be transported to the New York nonprofit that

commissioned it, Art in General, and reassembled inside-out. It will carry with it the degradation of the sun and wind, folding a small piece of the desert within lower Manhattan come summertime.

“Cave System or Ear Canal” is at Soloway, 348 South 4th Street, Brooklyn, through Dec. 22; soloway.info. “Gradually/We Became Aware ...” will be at High Desert Test Sites starting Jan. 11; artingeneral.org.