

## CHAPTER NY

# The New York Times

Ken Johnson, Adam Gordon 'Tiernan', NY Times, February 18, 2016



A detail from Adam Gordon's installation "Tiernan," at Chapter NY. Credit Courtesy of the artist and Chapter NY

## Adam Gordon, 'Tiernan'

By KEN JOHNSON

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On opening the front door to Chapter NY and Adam Gordon's first New York solo [exhibition](#), you step into an impenetrably dark space barely big enough for two people. As your eyes adjust, you discern a clear plexiglass wall and, on the other side of it, a bleak, colorless diorama resembling a basement alcove in an old industrial building. The ceiling and side walls, which run together in coved corners, appear to be made of concrete covered by moldy-looking splotches.

On the floor to the right is a pile of dusty boards. Immediately in front, an oscillating pedestal fan is running. On a tripod next to the fan is a small black box: a high-tech lamp casting an extremely dim glow. Before a black wall at the far end of the room stand two upright cylinders, which resemble mailing tubes, that are about three and four feet tall. They might be abstracted actors in a Beckett-like drama.

With this haunting construction, called "Tiernan," Mr. Gordon joins a select group of canny sculptors who replicate ordinary but psychologically evocative environments: [Mike Nelson](#), [Gregor Schneider](#) and [Fischli and Weiss](#), among others. Mr. Gordon also has orchestrated an elusive performance piece, "Iwona," that consists of a woman walking around outdoors near the gallery at certain times. She is, according to a gallery news release, "an esoteric female, searching the early Internet." She was nowhere in sight when I visited, which is, perhaps, as it should be.

## [Chapter NY](#)

127 Henry Street, Lower East Side

Through March 6

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