

CHAPTER NY

The New York Times

Robin Progrebin, Inside Art: Deliberate Disorientation, NY Times, February 12, 2016

Deliberate Disorientation

You can't open the door to the Lower East Side gallery Chapter NY right now without bumping into a wall of plexiglass. Nor can you see what's behind that barrier, because the room is almost completely dark.

But this disorientation is deliberate, part of Adam Gordon's "Tiernan," his first solo exhibition in New York.

As your eyes adjust, the scene beyond the plexiglass reveals a drab, gray room; an oscillating fan; pieces of wood piled on the floor; a few plastic bags.

"I like work that is unexpected and that takes something from the viewer," said the gallery's owner, Nicole Russo, adding, "You may love it, you may hate it, you may be frustrated, but something's occurred."

The installation takes up so much of the 200-square-foot space that Ms. Russo's office has been relegated to the remaining sliver, little more than a corridor with a desk wedged behind a wall. (She skipped the usual opening reception: "No room.")

Ms. Russo, formerly a director at Mitchell-Innes & Nash, doesn't mind. In fact, her inability to witness visitors interacting with this show has become part of the experience. "I can't see, which is fascinating," she said, "because I can hear people."

The exhibition, which runs through March 6, also includes a performance component, "Iwona," which consists of a woman walking slowly back and forth in front of the gallery for an hour twice a week; precisely when is anyone's guess.

"You only have so much information," Ms. Russo said. "And there's an element of chance."