

Espino, Anthony. (April 6, 2012). *14 Shows You've Gotta See in April*. Art Fag City. <<http://www.artfagcity.com/2012/04/06/what-were-seeing-in-april/>>



A.K. Burns – pregnant patron penny pot

Callicoon Fine Arts, 124 Forsyth Street. [Through April 15th.](#)

A must-see. *Pregnant patron penny pot* contains sculptures and wall-mounted works that thumb their noses at labor and production in the face of a quality-hungry art market. Burns has produced five wooden sculptures that resemble artworks explicitly associating themselves with modernist minimalism. These sculptures are laminated in skin-toned, marble-pattern formica, an inexpensive material used to superficially decorate domestic countertops. They're awkwardly short, which provokes an immediate discomfort; they seem somehow to occupy too much space.

Wall-mounted pieces of canvas accompany the sculptures, and maintain a similar attitude towards production. Each cutting-board-sized piece of inkjet-printed canvas is penetrated by a single penny—appearing as though they are being swallowed by the wall. Appropriated images sourced from the New York City Public Library Image Archive are printed and overlapped onto each sequential canvas.

This exhibition feels like a cynical response to the Lower East Side's reputation for consistently showing artwork produced with expensive building materials. If Burns's exhibition is a joke on the artists delivering their assemblages of expensive Home Depot products, it's doubtful that Orchard Street is laughing. (Anthony Espino)