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The Road Less Traveled: A Few Reviews From Slightly Out-of-the-Way Galleries

BY [ANDREW RUSSETH](#) December 11, 2015



Installation view of '[Matthew Langan-Peck: WC and Stadio](#)' at [Svetlana](#).

SVETLANA

Recently relocated from a spot in Tribeca to a tony town house near Union Square, the intriguingly named [Svetlana](#) has a show by the New York-based artist **Matthew Langan-Peck** titled "WC and Stadio," up through January 10. One room contains two scrappy, bulky sculptures (one yellow, the other pink and purple) made of pieced-together polyethylene sheeting, plastic grocery bags, and cotton chintz. Inflated with air-mattress-style fans and lit from within by LED strips, they are alluring and faintly creepy, almost seeming to breathe as they dominate the space, and yet, with their thin skin, they are always at risk of collapse, resembling Post-Minimalist beasts kept alive by ventilators. ([Park McArthur's ready-made foam blocks](#) come to mind as similarly hulking, multivalent work.) In the next room, Langan-Peck offers up seven wooden sculptures that resemble large nails positioned on their heads. They curve slightly at the top, like whimsical Oldenburg sculptures or Michaela Meise's quiet totems or Kippenberger's drunken lampposts or phalluses losing their — well, you know. A feeling of graciously accepted failure hangs in the air. But each has been lovingly painted (one a bright, metallic green), so perhaps these are just actors in a play, taking a final triumphant bow. Regardless, it is a witty, promising performance by Langan-Peck.