

ARTnews

Despite a Wave of Closures in New York, Small Galleries Here Are Flourishing

Emily Janowick at Parent Company

By Alex Greenberger

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Emily Janowick, *Wet Blanket*, 2024.

Photo : Courtesy Parent Company

Through a hatch in a Chinatown sidewalk and down a steep flight of stairs, there's Parent Company, a nonprofit gallery that artist Ada Potter started in a shipping container in 2023 before she relocated it to its current home on East Broadway. This teeny-tiny gallery feels even more cramped than usual because it is home to Emily Janowick's *Wet Blanket*, a new installation resembling two fallen wood obelisks, one collapsed atop the other. They take up nearly all the space here, forcing viewers to duck around and squeeze between the obelisks to get a full view of them.

Yet *Wet Blanket* does not induce claustrophobia, as one might expect, because of the calm soundtrack emitted from speakers embedded in the obelisks. Two soundtracks feature the crash of waves lapping at the shore—one recorded by artist James Chrzan in Malibu, the other by Janowick herself in Kure Beach, North Carolina.

Chrzan and Janowick were far from each other when they took in those sounds, but *Wet Blanket* collapses the distance between them, allowing their recordings to play inches apart. This is a moving piece about bridging physical gaps between separated people, and it fittingly encourages close contact: viewers are asked to sit upon and caress the obelisks, whose booming sounds cause these structures to vibrate with inner life.

154 East Broadway, Basement; Through February 8