

**THE DAILY
BEAST**

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Objects that portray themselves?

The Daily Pic: Michael Zelehoski uses floorboards as pictures of floorboards.

By Blake Gopnik



"Suspension Boards," by Michael Zelehoski (Photo by Carly Gaebe, courtesy the artist and Dodge gallery, NY)

This wall-work by Michael Zelehoski is in his show at Dodge Gallery on New York's Lower East Side. Zelehoski takes wooden objects and, by subtle manipulation and assemblage, turns them into distorted visions of themselves. (You have to look closely to see how much is really going on – a quick glance may not do it.) At first, his pieces can have some of the special-effects feel of trompe l'oeil and optical illusions. But then they attain an almost philosophical heft: The floor planks in "Suspension Boards" become images of the planks that they are, blurring boundaries between the real and the pictured. (I'm told that if you turn a Zelehoski over, you see the real backs of the same objects you see on the front. Minds have been blown by less...)