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The best contemporary art exhibitions in New York City

March 25, 2012

“Room for Myth” @ Dodge Gallery



Roy McMakin, A New Table With a Painted Footstool, 2008, maple with oil enamel paint, found table, 14.25 x 5.25 x 14.25 inches

Roy McMakin’s “furniture” is the star of this group show, but all 3 artists create a great chord that held me in the gallery for longer than I had time (a very good thing).

McMakin modifies found furniture into something that is “not furniture” while somehow also drawing attention to the qualities that it has as furniture. (Confusing right? That’s why it’s great). Pictured above is the smallest and my favorite, titled “A New Table With a Painted Footstool” (2008), but there’s also an amazing writing desk cut in half like an anatomical cross section, and 2 VERY similar old white chairs that have each been pristinely copied to create a 4-way game of compare contrast.

Also in the show: Arlene Shecht’s ceramic sculptures incorporating bricks from the kiln, and Barney Kulok’s poetic black & white photos feel both arranged & “discovered”. Well played by curator Mark Shortliffe.

“Room for Myth”, curated by Mark Shortliffe featuring Barney Kulok, Roy McMakin & Arlene Shechet, is on view at Dodge Gallery (15 Rivington St) through March 30, 2013.