

The New York Times

Slater Bradley

Team Gallery
527 West 26th Street, Chelsea
Through May 25

'Unknown Pleasures'

Daniel Reich
308 West 21st Street, Chelsea
Through June 5

On the surface, Slater Bradley's atmospheric, multilayered show is about a morbid, downer goth world of death wishes and apparitions. The ostensible protagonists are the artist — 27 and based in New York — and a spiritual double. They appear together as life-size sculptural chess figures, and in an updated version of Victorian "ghost photography" set in a Queens cemetery.

The tension between the fact and the fiction, the quick and the dead, is most striking in two pieces that refer to Joy Division, the 1970's band that achieved cult immortality after its leader, Ian Curtis, hanged himself. A wall painting exactly reproduces the cover graphics for the band's only live video, but a video of a singer performing a Joy Division song has no connection to the band itself; it was digitally created by Mr. Bradley. Its ghostly image makes a perfect conclusion to a show about the recycled illusions that are the reality of pop culture.

To catch additional Joy Division vibes, head to the group show "Unknown Pleasures" at Daniel Reich. It includes a painting of Curtis by Amy Gartrell, and extends Mr. Bradley's dark-side aesthetic with a video game prototype titled "I Shot Andy Warhol," designed by Cory Archangel, and intense, lively neoretro work by Paperrad.org, the Boston-based comic book collective.

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