

FRIEZE

Five Shows to See in New York During Armory Week

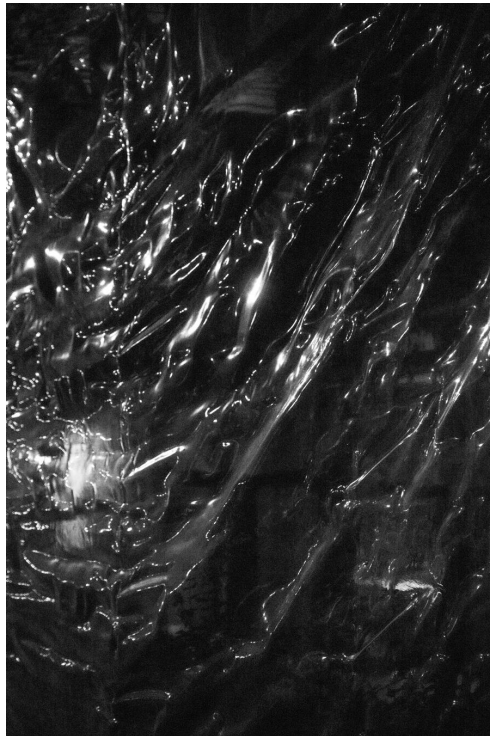
From Tuan Andrew Nguyen's first institutional solo show in the US at the New Museum to Elle Pérez's semi-abstract photographs at 47 Canal

BY ZOË HOPKINS IN CRITIC'S GUIDES, EXHIBITION REVIEWS | 08 SEP 23

Elle Pérez

47 Canal

9 September – 7 October



Elle Pérez, Night dining shed 1, 2023. Courtesy: the artist and 47 Canal

There is nothing quite like the gust of recognition that occurs when looking at a photograph and beginning to realize that things are not as they originally appear. Elle Pérez's solo show at 47 Canal is full of these shocks: recurring moments in which the eye is tossed in and out of uncertainty.

The photographs on view in the exhibition titled 'guabancex' – a reference to the Taíno deity of chaos and disorder – creep towards the realm of abstraction. Disembodied shadows and reflections pervade alongside curving lines and unidentifiable forms. A

subway window becomes a field of zig-zagging light and reflection. The textured wall of a cave appears almost liquid, filled with undulating pools of chalky matter. These gestures of defamiliarization and abstraction may seem like a surprising turn for a photographer whose work is so often thought of in relation to the body and intimacy. Yet, there is tenderness to be found in the way that Pérez gives new life to the forms they capture, lifting them into new ways of being seen. Indeed, though Pérez's photographs seem placid enough on the surface, they possess a subtle entropy, refusing stable or clear cut subject matter.