

# THE NEW YORKER



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## GALLERIES – DOWNTOWN

### **Martin Beck**

The rigorously composed photographs of this Austrian-born New Yorker depict full or empty vases, sometimes with a hand arranging flowers, sometimes with a full bouquet and a few dropped petals. Each is an updated vanitas for the digital age; they don't express the inevitability of death but, rather, the recession of life into images that are themselves only data. Elsewhere, a computer monitor flashes snippets of corporate-speak cribbed from a nineteen-seventies business manual. Like the minimalist and conceptual-art strategies of that era, the managerial cant Beck redeploys has become our new vernacular, for better or worse. Through May 17. (47 Canal, 291 Grand St. 646-415-7712.)