

THE CURRENT SEASON

REVIEWS OF NYC-AREA ART EXHIBITIONS

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Dorian Gaudin, "Jettison Parkway," at Nathalie Karg



An almost monstrously large motorized cylinder made of aluminum has made itself right at home at Nathalie Karg gallery, as part of Dorian Gaudin's new solo show, "Jettison Parkway." It rolls, slowly but steadily, from one end of the gallery to the other, pauses, reverses, and then repeats this movement indefinitely. Its size limits how we move about the gallery, allotting it control over our interaction with the space.

It is difficult not to anthropomorphize a sculpture like this. You can almost see it exerting energy with every movement (you might imagine it grunting as it rolls). It looks like it is heading towards a particular goal, searching for something, and its title, "Missing You," suggests that Gaudin created it with precisely that intention. While there are other works by Gaudin on the walls, brightly colored aluminum shapes that look vaguely Frank Stella-esque, they seem unnecessary and go by largely unnoticed in the presence of "Missing You." Perhaps that is the point.

Is our desire to project human traits onto machines simply a coping mechanism to mask both our dependence on them and their growing autonomy? Gaudin's sculpture will continue its movement even when no one is there to observe it, fracturing the notion that machines work for us, at our command. What happens when mechanical motions become aimless and unproductive?

POSTED BY [MADELEINE TAURINS](#) AT 3:15 PM