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REVIEWS & PREVIEWS

**Ben Beaudoin:
sculpture & Will Duty:
drawings and Paintings**

Bede Murphy

For its latest exhibition "Crippled Symmetry," the Jeff Bailey Gallery has chosen two artists who have impressive technique. Upon entering the new show by Ben Beaudoin and Will Duty, one is immediately struck by the clever utility of their pieces. Their drawings, paintings and sculptures exude a blend of meditation, craft and surreal regality. Based loosely on the musical composition "Crippled Symmetry" by Morton Feldman, the show is characterized by a passion for subtext, dissonance and improvisation. That said, there is also an undefined presence to the works, and each piece hints towards an unspoken sense of unity.



Ben Beaudoin's sculpture is most notable for its use of mutating forms and colors to both intricate and grandiose effect. Sprawled out like a reclining pet in the middle of the room on a 12-inch riser is "Stag." Its deep, bruised, brown body, amber-red tail, and white bulbous head are at once beautiful and unsettling. Spindly tendrils are imbued with tension while the rest of the piece exhibits a friendly decorum. Then, hovering above "Stag" like a sci-fi monolith is "Melancholia," a 16x20x20 cube made of foam, resin and acrylic paint. Inspired by an etching from the Renaissance master Albrecht Durer, this piece delivers a fitting tribute to a story of hope in the midst of sorrow. The omnipresent cube is made current by the use of Philippine camouflage and gunmetal coloring. In the more minimal "Twist," an opalescent sculpture leans against the wall in a fashion that is somehow both less threatening and less inviting than "Stag" and "Melancholia," but this difference in "Twist" is not a lack of tension but rather the suppression of it.