

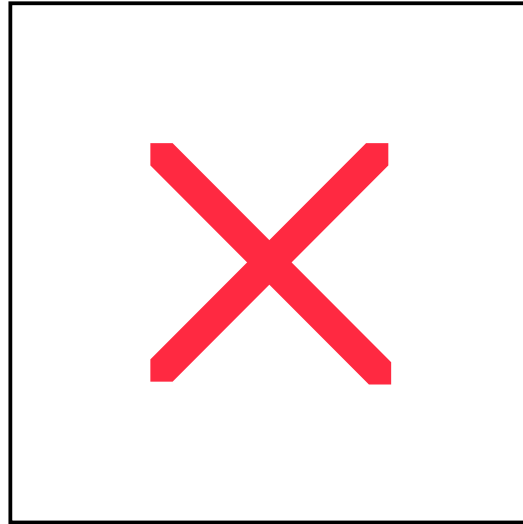
# The New York Times

## Art in Review

By THE NEW YORK TIMES  
Published: November 30, 2007

### DUKE RILEY

*Magnan Projects*  
*317 10th Avenue, near 28th Street*  
*Magnan Emrich Contemporary*  
*505 West 28th Street, Chelsea*  
*Both through Dec. 22*



Last summer, the artist Duke Riley attracted the attention of the Coast Guard, the [F.B.I.](#) and countless bloggers when his homemade submarine got too close to the Queen Mary 2 cruise ship in Brooklyn Harbor. That submarine can be seen in Mr. Riley's first show since that episode, along with a video documenting the whole event and a smattering of related drawings and sculptures. An endearing mix of performance art, sailors' craft and historical re-enactment, "After the Battle of Brooklyn: East River Incognita II" draws attention to other battles — over Red Hook cruise-ship terminals and Greenpoint high-rises — being waged along the city's waterfront.

The works at the gallery's 10th Avenue branch provide useful background on the inspiration for Mr. Riley's mission: an oak sphere christened the Turtle that was used in the Revolutionary War in a failed attempt to sink a British ship. (Mr. Riley suggests, through mock documentary videos and scrimshaw "artifacts," that the Turtle had a sibling called the Acorn, whose commander went missing in action.) A series of large ink drawings on canary paper embellish nautical charts with tattoo-like flourishes. Otherwise, none of these works are as interesting as the actual vessel, in the 28th Street gallery. A glimpse through a porthole reveals crushed beer cans from its maiden voyage.

Mr. Riley has a genuine interest in local maritime history and a long résumé of projects in and along the East River; if his latest is a stunt, it is certainly a watertight one. The same can't be said of his submarine, which now has a sizable gash as a memento of its adventure. **KAREN ROSENBERG**