

MATTHEW MARKS GALLERY

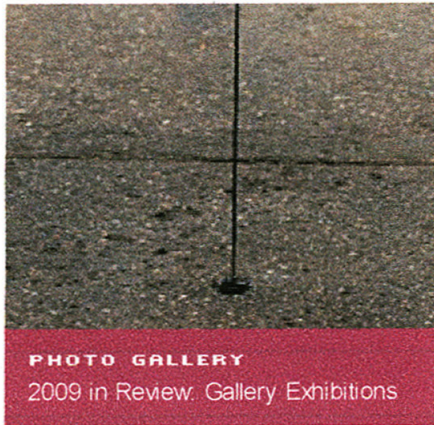
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2009 in Review: Gallery Exhibitions

Published: December 29, 2009



Charles Ray, "Ink Line, Moving Wire, Spinning Spot," at [Matthew Marks Gallery](#), May 8 – July 10, 2009

Gagosian's late-Picasso and Piero Manzoni shows were deservedly labeled "museum-quality" this year, but Matthew Marks's exhibition of three rarely displayed pieces from the 1980s by genius prankster Charles Ray was just as worthy. The gallery looked nearly empty at first glance, except for a single black string stretched from floor to ceiling. It glistened and swayed almost imperceptibly, ink dripping down to a tiny pool before being recycled up through the wall. Nearby, a quarter-ton circle of stone floor spun like a record, and two ends of a metal wire slid slowly in and out of a wall. The three works suggested a brand of minimalism developed on another planet or in an alternate reality. Ray's installations are one-liners of the best kind: biting, multilayered, and unforgettable, intensely pleasurable reminders to look and think carefully in- and outside of art galleries. — Andrew Russeth