



David Ebony's Top 10 New York Gallery Shows for February

Jasper De Beijer at Asya Geisberg, through March 14.

The haunting photographic images by Jasper de Beijer in this show appear from a distance to be large-scale drawings. The black-and-white and sepia-toned pictures of ghostly figures and eerie cityscapes look like richly textured palimpsests. Drawing in fact is central to de Beijer's elaborate process. In his studio, the 42-year-old Amsterdam-based artist creates intricate tableaux of figures and architectural models in plaster, cardboard and paper. He adds texture and nuance to the sculptural forms by covering them with ink, graphite and charcoal drawing. He then photographs the objects; transposed to flat, slick two-dimensional surfaces, the images are even more uncanny, often nightmarish and hallucinatory.

De Beijer works in series, each image connected by a strong narrative thread. This show, "Mr. Knight's World Band Receiver," centers on the true story of a hermit, Christopher Knight, who disappeared one night into a remote forest in Maine. For 27 years Knight had no contact with the outside world, and received information about events such as the Chernobyl disaster and Hurricane Katrina only through radio reports. De Beijer constructs what he imagines Knight would have envisioned had he attempted to visualize these events by means of only verbal descriptions. It's an audacious enterprise, and the results are wholly convincing and emotionally wrought.

-David Ebony