

NEW YORK

Rob Fischer

Derek Eller Gallery // March 21–April 19

GOOD WEATHER (Glass House), 2014, the mainstay of this show, is an architectural enclosure consisting primarily of tempered glass, a welded-steel chassis, and upcycled hardwood flooring. Adorned with screen-printed swaths of red, yellow, and blue hues as well as toxic greens and purples, this glass house is a scrappy reimagining of Philip Johnson's famous modern home of 1949. Fischer's modular structure has been reconfigured from its initial 2012 construction at the Chinati Foundation in

Marfa, Texas, and a recent iteration in a winter field in Upstate New York.

In the gallery, *Good Weather's* exterior is confined by the encroaching interior of the white cube. Inside the transparent pavilion, a feeling of intense claustrophobia persists. Low ceilings and clinging walls evoke the transitory spaces of airplane or boat cabins, while the bands of color hover before the white gallery walls, a decentered focus of perceptual strata invoking virtual layers

in a Photoshop file. An elevated mattress, solid-state stereo receiver, sink basin, and cooking range describe but do not deliver function to this abode.

If Fischer's work is a nod to the reductive idealism and purity of the last century, it's one with a conflicted restlessness. Rather than grounding his concerns in a certain dystopian future of flooding, overpopulation, and pollution, Fischer renders a space for contemplation, reflection, and solitude. Still, important environmental issues

are latent in the repurposed materials and the unsettling (rather than optimistic) tone of emptiness. An unwitting Thoreauvian proposition from this structure may be a call to divest ourselves of our material stuff. On the other hand, the takeaway from wall pieces, such as *Blue Luggage*, 2014, in the adjoining gallery may not neatly add to this narrative of unburdening oneself but, rather, suggests an entangled sense of purity and messiness.

—Greg Lindquist

Rob Fischer
Good Weather (Glass House), 2014. Glass, steel, screenprint ink, acrylic and latex paint, construction adhesive, wood floor, lights, and wires, 14¼ x 18¾ x 10½ ft.

