Vlatka Horvat, "Un leveling"

Until Sun Jun 24

Rachel Uffner
47 Orchard St, New York

Exhibitions

Sculpture

Time Out says

Stepping into Rachel Uffner Gallery's narrow storefront, one is immediately and literally bewildered by four rough wooden frames, spanning the room, which are mounted on casters and situated in a higgledy-piggledy configuration. Navigating some anxious tension, Vlatka Horvat's installation, Which Shifts Out From Under Your Feet, wills off the dimensions of standard plywood flooring to produce a distorted mirror image of the space's architecture. The arrangement's potential for tripping up viewers is consistent with Horvat's interest in how the inherent instability of built space dovetails with our intellectual inconsistencies and psychological trajectories. Formally elegant in its unadorned linearity, the work also raises a neat point about the extent to which we disregard the possibility of failure in order to keep moving forward.

Entries from two collage series, "Run Aground" and "Terra Incognita," also employ the motif of an unstable path, and the frustrated planes we encounter on the difficult journey to understanding. In the former set, Horvat re-photographs family snapshots of her parents marching in demonstrations in late-1960s Croatia, sliding the ground beneath their feet and reconfiguring what remains. In "Terra Incognita," she takes a similar tack with remnants of previous works, repositioning formerly peripheral details as central motifs. In both projects, the artist engages in a delicate play between positive and negative pictorial space. She abstracts her source material to generate small, quiet visual proposals in which entire narratives and iconographies are reconstructed with little more than a snip of the scissors. —Michael Wilson