



THE NEW YORKER

November 26, 2008

GALLERIES—DOWNTOWN

ERNST CARMELLE

The Austrian artist pulls off a trifecta of geometric abstraction, in works that are small and conceptual (sunlight on paper), medium-sized and conventional (pigment on wood), and extra-large and site-specific (a bright-orange, zigzagging mural). The latter transforms the white wall it encircles into a Pop-comic speech bubble awaiting its “Bang!,” but the show’s quiet high point is the group of nine drawings made by exposing areas of colored construction paper to sunlight for years at a time. Violet leeches to sand; magenta cycles through fuchsia, salmon, pale peach, and, finally, tan. The crazy-quilt patterns are cameraless snapshots—portraits of time fading away. Through Dec. 23. (Williams, 313 W. 4th St. 212-229-2757.)