



ON VIEW

Meteorite Falls on Car, Car Becomes Artwork

CULTURE

BY

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Hagen's "Authorial Reticece," 2014, was made from a 1980 Chevy Malibu. *Credit Courtesy of Marlborough Chelsea*

In 1992 in Peekskill, N.Y., a 4.4-billion-year-old, 26-pound asteroid chunk fell on a 1980 Chevy Malibu. The car soon became famous in meteorite-collecting circles (yes, they exist) and has since traveled all around the world. It will go on view tomorrow for the first time in a fine-art context, at Mark Hagen's self-curated show at [Marlborough Chelsea](#), "Guest Star," a title that slyly evokes both the rock that did the damage and to Hagen's own status in New York (the Los Angeles-based artist is unrepresented in the city). "I love the fact that it's a man-made object that's been sculpted by alien hands," Hagen says of the car. "I believe in alien life."

Photo



A side view of Hagen's "To Be Titled (Gradient Painting 35)," 2014. *Credit*

The vehicle reflects Hagen's overall interest in, as he says, "transforming common everyday materials and turning them into fantastic stuff." Such thinking is represented in his wall-mounted sculptures made of smelted aluminum car rims, which he calls "ramadas" after the temporary shelters found in the American Southwest. It is also apparent in his "Gradient" paintings, which represent the confluence of two distinct processes: a method in which he forces acrylic paint through burlap to create a cast that is his canvas, and a system for anodizing titanium with electricity and Diet Coke to produce his trippy acid-trip frames. Often embedded beneath the tonal gray gradients are scored tiles arranged in a grid that are "different manifestations of time," Hagen explains. "I'm really fascinated by time. We have a limited perspective of things."

"Guest Star" opens May 10 and is on view through June 21 at Marlborough Chelsea, 545 West 25th Street, marlboroughchelsea.com.

Correction: May 12, 2014

An earlier version of this post misstated the age of the meteorite that struck Peekskill, N.Y. in 1992. It was 4.4 billion years old, not 4.4 million.