

# GLADSTONE GALLERY

Peter Plagens, "Feats of Rock, Paint & Clay," *Wall Street Journal*,  
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## ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

FINE ART | By Peter Plagens

# Feats of Rock, Paint & Clay

### Jim Hodges

◆ Gladstone Gallery  
530 W. 21st St.  
and 515 W. 24th St.  
(212) 206-9300/7606  
Through Dec. 23.

Jim Hodges is now in his mid-50s, but it seems like only yesterday (it was the late 1980s) that he burst on the scene as a maker of lyrical, spider-webby curtains of thin chains and jewels. Since then, the midcareer sculptor seems

to have almost everything breaking right. His work has acquired heft, variety, and the kind of acceptance that's gained him a one-person show at the Centre Pompidou (2009), an appointment as the current academic year's head of the sculpture program at Yale, and this expansive (over-expansive) two-location exhibition.

The curved-edge, all-black reflective mosaic pieces with intriguing interior patterns are elegant; the installation with a rotating disco ball that descends into a dark pool in the center of a gallery floor is spacey-profound, and the four big boulders—each one-third-covered in a differently colored, mirror-finish steel mask—at the 21st Street location are intriguing. But the second installation that spurts bright paint blobs from ceiling to floor is too resonant of Damien Hirst's too-cute "spin" paintings, and the scratched color photographs of gorgeous skies are too faintly remindful of Mr. Hodges's early, startling curtains. But on this level of talent and ambition, perhaps three out of five ain't bad.

*Mr. Plagens is a painter and writer who lives in New York.*