

# Gothamist

By [John Del Signore](#) in [Arts and Events](#) on January 30, 2009 2:38 PM



Teun Hocks, *Untitled (man lying in box)*, 2008



Earlier this month a fire in the Chelsea building housing the [PPOW gallery](#) resulted in heavy water and smoke damage, just as an exhibit of Dutch artist Tuen Hocks's work was about to open. Co-owner Wendy Olsoff [told Art Info](#) that while the exhibition space and office were

"completely demolished," Hocks's photographs, drawings, and videos survived "mostly" intact. Which is good news, because the artist's striking and surreal photography is well-worth checking out at a new location at 511 West 25th Street, Room 301, through February 7th.

Performing as a Buster Keaton everyman in his Sisyphean self-portraits, Hocks then meticulously hand colors the photographs with transparent oil paint, evoking a theatrical spirit that's expanded upon in short videos and drawings. [The New Yorker describes](#) the aesthetic: "In one video, he crawls out of a baseboard mousehole, only to dart back again and again when confronted with the looming shadow of a cat. The hand-painted photographs are more melancholy and surreal: Beckett joins Magritte in the wasteland."