

THE  
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GALLERIES—DOWNTOWN

**Jan Dibbets**

For this elegant exhibition, the stalwart Dutch conceptualist delves into his past, reworking negatives from the nineteen-seventies. Most depict the reflective hoods of automobiles, but that subject feels almost incidental. Dibbets isn't interested in cars; he's after the ways in which their surfaces result in pictures that can pass as abstract. Some of these works could be mistaken for Color Field paintings—only glints of light reveal their photographic origins. The show's best work, a grid of nine candy-colored versions of the same image, balances Pop panache and minimalist restraint. *Through Feb. 18. (Freeman, 140 Grand St. 212-966-5154.)*

- by Chris Wiley