

“Best of 2009”

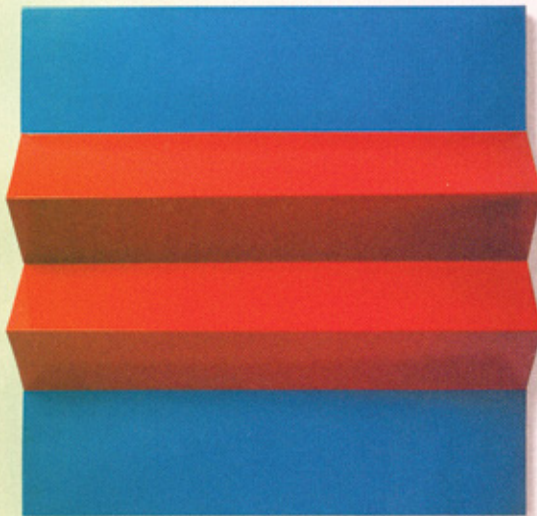
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# ARTFORUM

## Scott Rothkopf

A SENIOR EDITOR OF ARTFORUM, SCOTT ROTHKOPF IS AN ART HISTORIAN AND CRITIC. HE IS THE AUTHOR, MOST RECENTLY, OF “JEFF KOONS, PAINTER,” PUBLISHED IN *JEFF KOONS: HULK ELVIS* (RIZZOLI, 2009).

Charlotte Posenenske, *Faltung (Fold)*,  
1966, spray paint on aluminum,  
29 1/2 x 29 1/2 x 5 1/2”.



**1** **New York gallery flashback** Markets of all kinds got a bad rap this year, but New York's galleries bucked the broadsides with historical shows of such quality and focus they gave local museums a run for their dwindling money. The lion's share of attention went to well-deserving surveys like "Manzoni: A Retrospective" at Gagosian Gallery and "Zero in New York" at Sperone Westwater, but discerning smaller exhibitions abounded. L & M Arts presented "John Chamberlain: Early Years" and the exquisite "Philip Guston 1954–58," which served as a welcome counterbalance to the recent privileging of the artist's later cartoonish output. Mitchell-Innes & Nash brushed the cobwebs off the underestimated Allan D'Arcangelo and off marvelously encrusted Leon Kossoffs from the '50s and '60s, while Paula Cooper mounted a stately précis of David Novros's early work. There was a gorgeous selection of Charlotte Posenenske's fragile yet stern metal prototypes at Peter Freeman, Inc., and Skarstedt Gallery peeked behind the seams with "Barbara Kruger Pre-digital," a perfect history lesson for a generation in the thrall of purloined imagery and slick digital effects. Any one of these shows would have been a marvel, but taken together they reminded us that a surfeit of riches need not always be an embarrassment.