



Thomas Fougeirol, *Untitled*, 2009, oil on canvas, 77½" x 59½".
Praz-Delavallade.

Thomas Fougeirol

Praz-Delavallade

Paris

"Black Sun," French artist Thomas Fougeirol's third exhibition with this Parisian gallery, represents a new take on the artist's ongoing formal experiments with positive and negative space. The 14 paintings and four oil-on-paper works on view here, all done in a sober white-on-black palette, refer to the phenomenon of the solar eclipse.

Fougeirol is an artist constantly in search of new techniques. When he first started, he worked with pigments dripping down the canvas, describing the results as looking "a bit like an X-ray." For an earlier series of paintings, the artist pressed old curtains that had been soaked in paint against black monochrome canvases to create abstract patterns. To make these more recent works, he used hospital bedsheets, metal screens, and even raindrops. Two of the large untitled canvases were particularly impressive, the result of his ten-year-long investigation into textures. Other pieces contain grids, hand drawn by the artist, which brings subtle irregularities to the geometry of each work.

Up close, the works on paper appear just as abstract as the white-on-black paintings. However, when viewed from a distance, recognizable objects become visible: a ghostly skull in one, a snowman in another, a leafy fern in a third.

—*Jean Bond Rafferty*