

Ebony, David, "Calvin Marcus," *Artnews.com*, February 2015

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Calvin Marcus

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David Ebony

For this exhibition *Green Calvin* Calvin Marcus, a young, Los Angeles–based artist of promise, filled this spacious Bushwick gallery with 10 recent monochrome green paintings, uniform in size (about 48 by 96 inches), with a teeth-gnashing shade of green-painted surfaces, and a ceramic plucked chicken attached near the center of each canvas. The only relief to this insistent image is a fake door installed in a rear gallery. Is this show a jokey pun on Minimalist painting, the entire enterprise of art-making, or an exercise in sober introspection? It's hard to tell, and the head-jamming ambiguity of the work seems to be the point.

Marking his New York solo debut with this riveting show, Marcus challenges viewers to find some sort of stable ground with which to make sense of his seemingly crazy endeavor. On close inspection, each of the chickens sports humanoid features — eyes, nose and a mouth — on its breast, which ostensibly constitute a self-portrait. It is true that each work suggests a different mood — a smile, a frown, laughing or thoughtful introspection, if that's not going too far. In any case, this is a provocative show that won't be forgotten any time soon.