

# THE NEW YORK OBSERVER

## Breaking and Entering

By [Marjorie Welsh](#)  
September 24, 2009

AN ARTISAN IN everything he does, Jack Whitten's love of craft is apparent in his current show at Alexander Gray Associates, with mixed results. In the main gallery are recent paintings. Colorfully striped panels painted in a variety of textured effects lack conviction, despite the claims made for them—indeed because the claims of being derived from military insignia seem frivolously realized. In the back gallery, however, is a knockout work, *Zeitgeist Traps (for Mike Goldberg)* (2009), in which all Whitten's talent is mobilized in a memorial for a fellow painter.

*"Jack Whitten" is on view at Alexander Gray Associates, 526 West 26th Street, through Oct. 17, 2009.*