

# THE DAILY PIC

Blake Gopnik's Latest Sightings

MARCH 19, 2014, 5:32 PM

## Daily Pic: Powhida Gives Up, Grandly



This floor sculpture is from the solo show by William Powhida that just opened at Postmasters gallery far downtown in New York. Powhida, an artist and activist, is best known for *trompe-l'oeil* canvases that look like lists of what's wrong with the art world, handwritten on lined looseleaf paper then blown up to wall size. Powhida's gripes have plenty of humor, but also some of the anger and cogency of Luther's 95 Theses – although with almost no chance of sparking a reformation. The new sculptures, sadly, seem to admit as much. They are made from big sheets of thin metal, pierced and painted and then crumpled. Their looseleaf sheets are blank, as though Powhida had thought to write another screed then abandoned the attempt. But the sheer scale of his gesture of giving up tells us that there's plenty at stake. (For once, it's worth reading the [press release](#), if only for Powhida's coinage of the lovely term "overculture," which he uses to describe the elite points of view that now defeat any "counter-" or "sub-" that an artist might offer.)