

Points of View | Matt Ducklo and Matthew Monteith at Hermès

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Matt Ducklo

"The Tiber Muse, second-first century B.C. Greco-Roman, Minneapolis Institute of Arts," 2008

At a glance, the photographs on view in "Matt Ducklo & Matthew Monteith: Mind's Eye," which opens on Friday at the Gallery at Hermès, appear to be relatively straightforward shots of people looking at art. But for both photographers, there is an element of blind faith at work here. For the past six years, Ducklo has documented visually impaired visitors interacting with sculptures on touch tours of museums like MoMA and the Met. Monteith spent the better part of a year at the American Academy in Rome where he captured tourists looking at the city's many monumental attractions, seeking the precise moment when the artwork infiltrates the viewers' imagination and the act of looking becomes an act of seeing. "You don't know how they are experiencing the work, but you know how it looks like they are experiencing it," says Ducklo regarding the slippery nature of perception. At the very least, says Cory Jacobs, who curated the show, "the photos make you slow down and take notice of how quickly we tend to pass things by."