

Art

5 Standout Shows to See at Small Galleries This February

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[Jill Downen](#)

Weeping Wall, 2018-2024

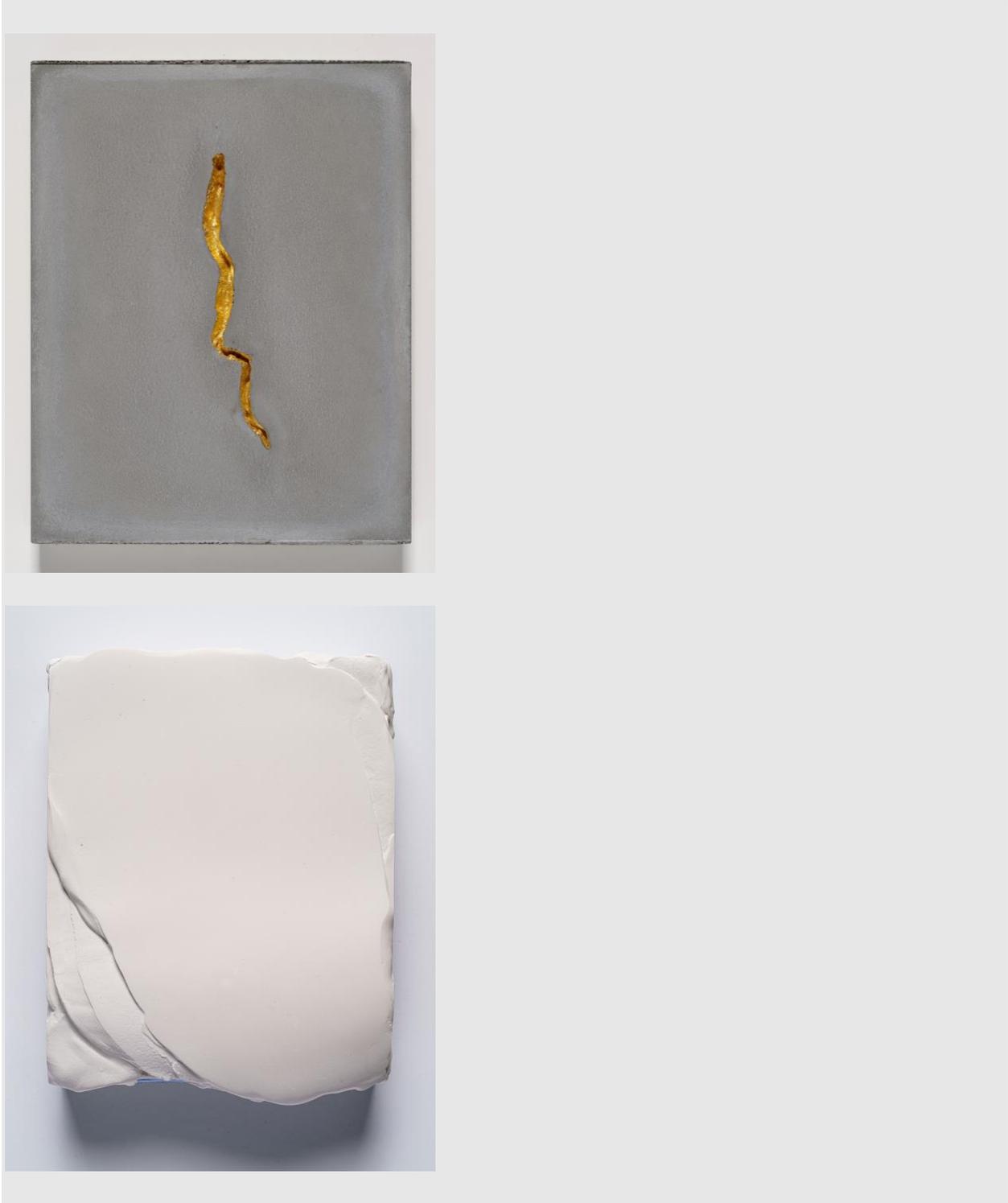
NUNU FINE ART

Price on request

In this monthly roundup, we spotlight five stellar exhibitions at small and rising galleries.

[Jill Downen](#), **[“Weightless”](#)**

[NUNU Fine Art](#), New York **Through Mar. 15**



Jill Downen

Fissure, 2024

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Jill Downen
Gravity, 2024
NUNU FINE ART
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Artist [Jill Downen](#) often thinks about lightning. As a child, a lightning bolt struck their home, sparking an intense awareness of the body, architecture, and the vulnerability of both. Using building materials like plaster and concrete, Downen now explores this susceptibility in their practice. In the wall-based work [Fissure](#) (2024), for instance, a gold, lightning-like streak dramatically cuts through gray concrete. This work is part of the 30 plaster and concrete works Downen refers to as “reimagined drawings” featured in [“Weightless”](#) at [NUNU Fine Art](#).

Each piece employs traditional wall construction methods, and many are cracked down the middle to reveal shimmering gold and lapis lazuli. A large, standout piece, [Weeping Wall](#) (2018–24), resembles a deteriorating plaster wall, revealing glimpses of gold leaf as if peeling away from the gallery wall. The plaster used in [Gravity](#) (2024), meanwhile, is layered, appearing to sag off its wall fixture.

A professor of sculpture at the Kansas City Art Institute, Downen received a Guggenheim Fellowship in 2010. In recent years, Downen has presented solo exhibitions with Studios Inc, The Hown’s Den, and Bruno David Gallery, the latter of which represents the artist.