



# John Houck: Playing and Reality

By Jessica Dawson

One of our favorite Lower East Side galleries is getting in on the ground floor — literally. On Stellar Rays scoots its exhibition space down a flight, to a 1,600-square-foot storefront formerly housing a restaurant supply store. The upstairs section will become a project space for pop-ups and the basement may one day be a video room, but for now, the first floor is where it's at. Los Angeles-based John Houck, a standout in MoMA's recent "Ocean of Images," breaks in the new digs with continued explorations of humanity in a digital age. Here he plays with that old canard about the artist's hand by literally inserting it in his pictures: Houck cast his own hands and then digitally photographed them floating in a kind of non-space that he's layered with — wait for it — hand-painted grids. Called "Playing and Reality," Houck's show borrows its title from the pioneering child psychologist D.W. Winnicott's book. But Houck's play on perspectives feels more like a latter-day Cézanne.

*Photo Credit: John Houck, First Set, 2015. Courtesy the artist and On Stellar Rays.*

## **DETAILS**

Time: 6:00 p.m. April 10

free

## **LOCATION INFO:**

On Stellar Rays ▶

213 Bowery  
New York, NY 10002  
212-598-3012

[Lower East Side](#)

<http://onstellarrays.com/>