



Susan Leopold, *Foyer*, 2015, mixed media, mirrors, light, and wood, 18" x 16" x 10"

## SUSAN LEOPOLD

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Nine of Susan Leopold's expertly crafted dioramas hung in the darkened gallery like glowing TV screens, full of illusory depth. They lured us viewers with light, color, signs of life, but as we approached, we found only empty spaces—scenes of tenement interiors devoid of human presence.

With lush carpeting and glistening tile floors, pristine white trim, and cheerfully painted walls, the miniature rooms appeared cleaned out and spruced up, as if in preparation for an open house or for guests—perhaps for us. All spaces were liminal—hallways, stairwells, foyers—leading to unseen quarters or offstage action. In *In Between* (all works 2015), two bright halls branch off to warmly lit rooms, their doors enticingly ajar. In *Staircase*, windows and entryways are implausibly positioned, like mysterious portals to a parallel universe, while in *Last Flight*, a heavenly white glow shines down from the ceiling, even as a window nearby shows the dark night sky. In every scene, light emanated and windows framed tiny photographs of the outside world looking grimy and yet appealingly full of life.

But the emptiness here was not entirely convincing. As we peered through one window into another and caught glimpses of ourselves in mirrors where other rooms should have been, our own voyeurism alerted us to other, potentially unseen, observers.

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