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Daniel Canogar Echo

Daniel Canogar's show Echo at bitforms uses sculptural LED screens to display videos generated from geological and ecological data streams. The videos are largely abstract, reminiscent of the work of color field painters such as Mark Rothko, or light sculptors such as James Turrell, and the screens they are on are mostly rectangular, but are bent in on themselves, sometimes in such a way that the viewer can see very little of the content. Text around the gallery informs the viewer that the videos are generated from data collected around the world on subjects such as wind, volcanic activity and rainfall. One piece, "Basin" is displayed suspended from the ceiling in the middle of the gallery at about shin height. The viewer is informed that the video she is looking at is generated from a data stream about rainfall around the world. The video is blue and undulates slowly, and is quite reminiscent of looking down at a pond full of fresh water. Here, the connection between the original data and the visual output is clear. In other pieces, it is less so. A video generated from wind data is red and orange and vaguely shaped like a leaf. A video generated from volcanic activity data is purple and blue and faces the wall so that the viewer sees just its reflection. The viewer is left to question what the phenomena she is alerted to by wall text have to do with the room she is standing in. Dissociation was probably not the point of collecting all of this data, visualising it, and placing it in a NYC art gallery, but it in this case that is the effect.