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GALLERIES—CHELSEA

DAVID MAISEL

The color photographs in Maisel's recent exhibitions were aerial views of an alien American landscape: industrial and agricultural sites rendered nearly unrecognizable by toxic waste and other environmental damage. His fine new work is on more familiar territory—the city of Los Angeles—but it still looks like another, much more forbidding planet. That's partly the result of Maisel's decision to print these black-and-white aerial pictures in negative, so skyscraper shadows read as erasures and trees as moldy excrescences on the grid. This is not the first time you've seen an overhead shot of L.A.'s looping freeway interchanges, but Maisel abstracts them and everything else here until the city appears depopulated, absolutely postapocalyptic. Through Dec. 23. (Von Lintel, 555 W. 25th St. 212-242-0599.)