

Hot exhibit: Danish artist Mie Olise's "Crystal Bites of Dust" at Barbara Davis Gallery

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Mie Olise's "No Wholefood House" is among the works on view in the exhibit "Crystal Bites of Dust" at Barbara Davis Gallery. Photo: Barbara Davis Gallery

Danish-born artist Mie Olise aims to make the ugly beautiful in "Crystal Bites of Dust," her new solo show at Barbara Davis Gallery in Houston.

Inspired by a 1967 ArtForum article by Robert Smithson, who documented decaying industrial sites along the Hackensack River in New Jersey, Olise explored the forgotten landscape around Brooklyn's Gowanus Canal.

Actually, she didn't just explore it. She dipped into the polluted waters to create some of her medium.

The exhibit's eight large-scale paintings depicting abandoned factories and

spaces under bridges incorporate water and pigment from the canal. Olise has also created works in wood and cardboard for the exhibit that help recreate a sense of the space and the forlorn magic that spoke to her.

Molly Glentzer