

ARTFORUM

CRITICS' PICKS

Daniel Turner

LE CONFORT MODERNE

185 de la rue du Faubourg du Pont Neuf

April 6–July 1

Working with salvaged materials, Daniel Turner has transformed psychiatric-hospital sinks, restaurant-kitchen appliances, and other old machinery and fixtures into sleek geometric cast-metal sculptures. Belying their minimalist aesthetic, Turner's soulful reincarnations are rife with historical, political, and personal connotations. The suite of works presented here was made using I-beams removed from the exhibition venue during a recent renovation project. Turner's sculptures are accompanied by a selection of archival materials that trace the evolution of the site, which was originally built as a textile factory in 1910.

The identical floor-based sculptures, both titled *CM (IPN) Bar* (all works cited, 2018), were cast from twenty-two melted-down steel beams. Despite a collective weight of five hundred pounds, the long and thin buffed rectangles appear somehow light and luminous, recalling *Light and Space* sculptures such as DeWain Valentine's polished resin columns. In stark contrast to these densely compressed monuments, *Particle Processed (IPN) Beam*, is a ground-up girder, diffused across a large open space. After milling the steel into a fine powder, Turner mixed the metallic dust with a chemical solution and sprayed it onto the concrete floor and plaster walls of the exhibition space. The resulting rusty coating imbues the freshly renovated, white-walled gallery with a grim sense of nostalgia. Backing this up, facsimiles of documents that the artist found through a local historian reveal some unflattering moments in Le Confort Moderne's past—including the manufacture of artillery components during a period leading up to World War II, and the eventual conviction of the foundry's owner as a Vichy collaborationist. Whether in the form of a penetrating stain or an impenetrable monolith, Turner's works contend that the past never fades entirely; history inevitably invades and informs the present.



Daniel Turner, *Particle Processed (IPN) Beam*, 2018, mixed media, dimensions variable.

— Mara Hoberman

