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Now Showing | Roy McMakin
by Pilar Viladas



Roy McMakin. "My Slatback Chair With Another One," 2008. Maple with oil enamel paint, found chair. (Courtesy of the artist and Matthew Marks Gallery)

In his second one-person show at the Matthew Marks Gallery, Roy McMakin proves once again how permeable the boundaries between art and design really are. McMakin, whose use of found furniture in his art installations led him to become a designer of furniture, interiors, and ultimately, houses, never lost interest in making art, and the pieces shown here demonstrate the futility of labeling them definitively as one or the other. An old chest of drawers is shown with two of McMakin's interpretations of it: both have the same front as the old one, but these fronts are fake; the back view reveals one to be a bookcase and the other a cupboard that previously held the artist's dishes. But perhaps the most captivating pieces in the show, which also includes the artist's photographs, are those in which a found piece of furniture (generally old, with a dark wood finish) delicately collides with a new version by McMakin (spare-lined and painted white), like a pair of mismatched Siamese twins.