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By MICHAEL BRENSON

Mark Harris

*Condeso/Lawler Gallery
76 Greene Street
Through tomorrow*

Mark Harris makes big collage-paintings (as much as 10 feet tall and 7 feet wide). His strips of paper attached to the canvases function as hard, clean, almost samurai gestures that curl and sweep the eye across and around the canvas. Part of what is distinct here is their matte surface, which always seems enlarged, even pushed against us, and in three of the four works seems designed to keep out light. Sometimes the dark, even blackish surfaces bring to mind rock walls in which light can enter only through chinks. Sometimes they have the feeling of stone walls on abandoned streets at night. Sometimes they seem to be the offspring of the dense, war-marked collage forests of Max Ernst. As much as anything, these works suggest an attempt to paint decisively and ritually in a funereal world that is occasionally grasping for light.