

Derosia

John Vincler, The New York Times, December 23, 2022

# The New York Times

CHINATOWN

## Covey Gong & Eli Ping

Through Jan. 8. Lubov, 5 East Broadway, fourth floor, Manhattan; 347-496-5833, [lubov.nyc](http://lubov.nyc).



Installation view of “Covey Gong & Eli Ping” at Lubov. At left, Eli Ping’s “Moult” (2022), and right, Covey Gong’s “Untitled” (2022) and “Untitled” (2022). Nicholas Knight/Lubov

The New York-based artists Covey Gong and Eli Ping stage a comradely dialogue in a show focusing primarily on sculpture. Across the exhibition’s seven works — all from 2022, with two by Ping and five by Gong — both artists manage a just-so balance as they play delicacy off heaviness and use simplicity without fussiness. Sculptural detail enlivens even the works that at first glance look like paintings, as in Gong’s untitled diptych, where finely woven polyester organza stands in for painter’s canvas, revealing the aluminum stretcher bars beneath. Plate-size polka dots mark this material — which recalls sheer pantyhose — airbrushed with black or dark gray acrylic in a loosely regular pattern, with smoky wisps of spray escaping the circles’ confines. The effect: minimalism with élan and soul.

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John Vincler, The New York Times, January 4, 2023

Gong's diptych faces Ping's "Moult," a cast iron rendering of a simple form that looks like a towel — or even a painter's repurposed unstretched canvas — twisted and frozen in a rising, looping shape suggesting a torch or candle's flame. My favorite works here are two boxlike constructions by Gong using the same sprayed organza on a thin wire frame of bronze and tin. Hung on the wall, they are about the size of a hard-backed book and incorporate hook-and-eye enclosures of the kind you might find on a corset or blouse, one detailed in white fabric, the other in black. Cotton thread clusters within at the top and bottom, recalling Richard Tuttle's subtle sculptural drawings made with wire and shadow. *JOHN VINCLER*