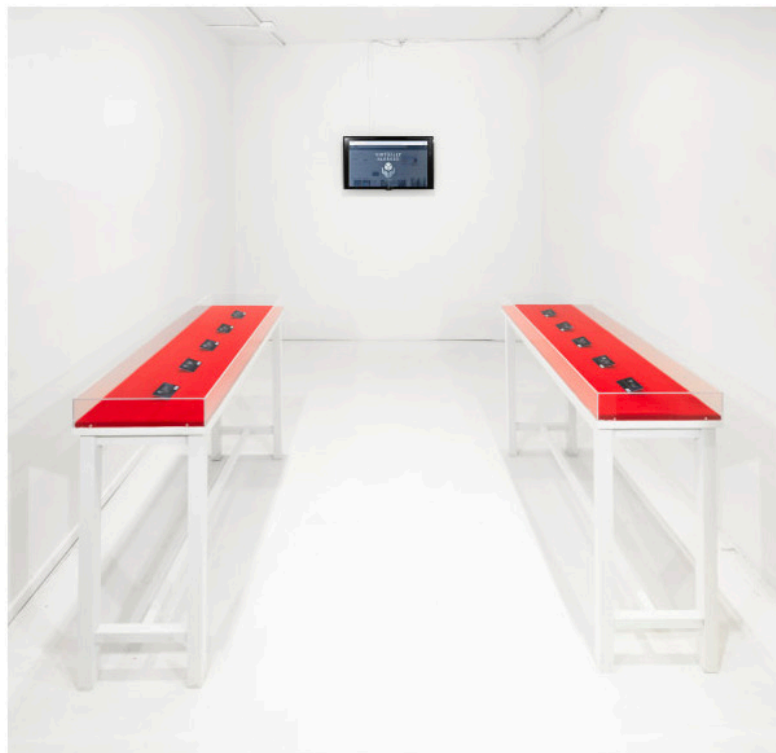




Jack Hanley Gallery
177 Duane Street, New York, NY 10013
April 25–May 25, 2024

By **EDWARD WAISNIS** June 12, 2024



Aria McManus, Virtually Blessed, installation view

Aria McManus: *Virtually Blessed*

I feel I would be remiss without mentioning the second exhibition at the gallery. In the project room on the lower level, a compact installation by Aria McManus, *Virtually Blessed*, brings the commerce of the financial system by hawking a software, complete with functioning debit cards, that ‘virtually blesses’ objects purchased online. While McManus focuses her intent on our imagine’s of value, I could not help but feel a real-world resonance of what I had recently experienced watching the documentary *Bit Conned*, on Netflix. On the level of topicality it delivered a gut punch, offering a glittering example of how media and technology seduce through preposterous temptations. **WM**