

M A R G A R E T
T H A T C H E R
P R O J E C T S



Now Showing | Swid / Kaufman

By Alix Browne
May 6, 2010



Nan Swid's "Black Strobe" (left) and Donald Kaufman's "Cabinet."

In their own ways, **Nan Swid** and Donald Kaufman have always been enablers. A founder of the design company Swid Powell, Swid worked with an A-list of artists and architects like Frank Gehry, Richard Meier and Ettore Sottsass to produce all manner of tabletop objects. The company archives — from a coffee maker to candlesticks — now reside at the Yale University Museum of Art. Kaufman — who with his wife and business partner, Taffy Dahl, founded Donald Kaufman Color in the '70s — has long been the go-to guy for architects and decorators looking for that elusive shade of not-quite-gray-not-quite-white or flaming red. Take a tour of Philip Johnson's Glass House or grab a drink at the Julian Schnabel-designed Gramercy Park Hotel and you get the picture. But for four days this week, instead of making other people look good, Swid and Kaufman will bask in the spotlight as artists in their own right, when they show their personal work at Gallery 9E in Chelsea. Unsurprisingly, Kaufman — whose work has been in museums like the Whitney and the Hirshhorn, but who hasn't had an exhibition in over 30 years — is a painter. His series of gouaches on paper, he says, are inspired by architectural color samples. And true to form, Swid is more object-oriented, layering pieces of old books, cellophane, legal files and other found materials into three-dimensional reliefs.

"We felt our work was compatible," says Swid. "Even though our art is hung separately in the gallery it co-exists nicely together, and it is always wonderful to do a project with someone that you have worked closely with over the past 25 years and with whom you have developed a strong friendship..."

Nan Swid/Donald Kaufman is at Gallery 9E through May 9. 508 West 26th Street, 9th Floor, NYC.