

## reviews: new york

### Leslie Wayne

#### Jack Shainman

Leslie Wayne united the mediums of painting and sculpture in this elegant and cerebral show of eleven painted “studio rags.” Using heavy applications of viscous oil paint, she molded, shaped, and otherwise manipulated the medium until it took on a particular guise. Each “Paint/Rag” was hung in isolation from the others on a blank wall, underscoring its elevation from an everyday functional object into a complex one with multiple meanings and associations, as well as into a thing of beauty.

Perhaps the most compelling aspect of these “Paint/Rags” is that they convincingly adopt the underlying properties of a common cloth. The modest pieces maintain the size and basic tactile properties of rags, while they take on their various new capabilities. In works such as *Paint/Rag #34* (2014) and *Paint/Rag #31* (2013), Wayne elevates the constructions into sumptuous-looking fabrics. Her paint simulates the rich texture and ornate patterns of scarves one might find in an open-air market.

In *Paint/Rag #29* (2013), she used an egg-white paint, and then accented it