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COURTESY NATHAN HARGER/HASTED KRAEUTLER

NATHAN HARGER

Hasted Kraeutler

537 West 24th Street

December 9 through January 29, 2011

The world may not be as black-and-white as Nathan Harger would lead you to believe, but no matter. The 34-year-old photographer's self-titled exhibition at Hasted Kraeutler, his first solo show, offers a breathtaking vision of power plants, structural trusses, abandoned ships, and other industrial sites in monochrome relief. Harger hails from Cleveland, and that city's Rust Belt decay has made a significant impression on the artist. While earlier work, consisting of multiple photographs arranged in grid format, is represented in this show, most of the pictures on view are high-contrast shots of spaces in the outer boroughs of New York City, New Jersey, and Western Pennsylvania. In views of hulking monoliths such as *Untitled (Process Tank), Brooklyn, NY* (2010, above), Harger presents his subjects in a sterile, almost two-dimensional style that makes their rugged outlines all the more impressive.