

GOINGS ON  
ABOUT TOWN

EXPLORE



ART MUSEUMS AND LIBRARIES

## Julia Phillips: Failure Detection

Through Sept. 3.



This young German artist combines glazed ceramic elements with hardware to haunting effect. Sculptural vignettes allude to anatomy with handprints, masklike casts, and mysterious implements whose uses might be surgical, hygienic, or sexual. In “Extruder (#1),” a fragmentary figure, suspended from an armature of metal pipes, is reduced to its orifices and seems to have become one with the plumbing. Beside it, on a platform of concrete tiles, lies a very large, very dangerous-looking metal helix. Phillips’s sculptures are singular, but they do have affinities with pioneering works that preceded them. The surreal air and corporeal references of her tableaux recall the oneiric installations of Louise Bourgeois; a quartet of monoprints, made using the crotches of panty hose to create webbed and ragged forms, nod to Senga Nengudi’s innovative use of nylons to conjure the predicaments and potentials of the human body.

— *The New Yorker*