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Julianne Swartz

Antennae topped by drooping wires jut out of squat cement blocks; driven by tiny clockworks concealed in the chunky bases, the flexible metal strands rotate slowly and skittishly. One wire pierces a miniscule slip of paper that reads "Hope," but it's difficult to read as it waggles like a snuffling, uncertain animal. In Obstacle Mountain, a plastic blob, suspended on a long wire leash, drags around a little cement hill, stuttering through its never-ending orbit on the floor. Touch Knowledge features a tiny suspended lightbulb that trails a hairlike wire—each time it comes into contact with a coil of thicker wire, a circuit is completed and the bulb glows briefly. Brutish and delicate at once, these homely materials become poignant actors in Swartz's existential dramas. Josée Bienvenu, 529 W 20th, 212-206-7990. Through June 29.