

Now Showing | Driss Ouadahi

DESIGN | By PILAR VILADAS | OCTOBER 1, 2010, 2:45 PM



Désenclavement, 2010

“Densité,” an exhibition of paintings by Driss Ouadahi, opens today at [Hosfelt Gallery](#) New York. Ouadahi grew up in Algeria and studied architecture before enrolling at the Kunstakademie Düsseldorf, in the German city that is now his home. His subject matter is the built environment of urban alienation: underground passageways, chain-link fencing, the sterile Modernist high-rise buildings that are home to so many immigrants in European cities. Ouadahi’s almost pretty color palette makes his screen-like, gridded high-rise facades seem seductive, until you realize that beyond them is a barren, depopulated landscape. His precisely rendered, claustrophobic tiled passages would make Kafka break out in a sweat, and his delicate depictions of chain link cover the canvas to its edges, suggesting a net that leaves no way out. The exhibition continues through Nov. 13. 531 West 36th Street; (212) 563-5454.