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# The New York Times

**Weekend** FINE ARTS  
LEISURE

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## ART IN REVIEW

### **Fred Sandback**

*Lawrence Markey  
42 East 76th Street  
Through tomorrow*

In 1990 an exhibition of work by Fred Sandback, the master of the Minimalist string sculpture, who died last year at 59, inaugurated Lawrence Markey's low-key and well-respected gallery. Now Mr. Markey has decided to shift his base of operations to San Antonio, and another Sandback show is seeing him off. (There will be one more exhibition at the gallery.)

The Sandback exhibition was organized in conjunction with a bigger one, now closed, at Zwirner & Wirth. That show included 10 sculptures made by stretching lengths of colored yarn across walls or between floors, walls and ceilings. Showing so many pieces in a small and architecturally complicated gallery was problematic; Sandback's works need open, uninterrupted space to produce their extremely subtle illusions and moods.

Fortunately, the single sculpture on view here (along with five works on paper) has plenty of breathing room in Mr. Markey's luminous white cube. Conceived by Sandback specifically for this space, it consists of just two lengths of yellow yarn stretched vertically from floor to ceiling, about five feet apart. The straight yellow lines look at once like intensely focused beams of light and ordinary, fuzzy yarn. You may sense a kind of force field that prevents you from walking between them. To shift back and forth between the illusory and the material like this is a kind of religious experience.

KEN JOHNSON