

# GalleristNY

on view

*'The Perfect Show' at 303, 'Out of the Blue' at Bortolami, 'Problem Play' at Leo Koenig, Thornton Dial: 'Viewpoint of the Foundry Man' at Andrew Edlin*

By Andrew Russeth 5:26pm



## Thornton Dial

"Viewpoint of the Foundry Man"

Andrew Edlin Gallery

Through December 29

Save a visit to 84-year-old self-taught artist Thornton Dial's show at Edlin for the end of the day. It's a potent, cleansing tonic after the self-consciously refined contemporary art that dominates Chelsea. His new works are dense assemblages of paint and found objects, typically bent or battered on panels. They are intended to be autobiographical, recalling his life as a laborer in Emelle, Ala. The show's namesake work (2012) is a tangle of bedsprings, punctured corrugated tin and other detritus, painted in earthen red,

blue and silver. *Recalling the Pain* (2011) is an achingly spare Constructivist form, consisting of no more than a few chunks of charred wood that float about and touch in space like fragments of memories strung together. Like the artificial flowers that sprout up in some of these pieces, Mr. Thornton's works are fragile-looking but resilient, evergreen tributes to the pleasure and pain of living life with, and through, art.