



Robin Pogrebin, “Inside Art: Evolving Rooms” *The New York Times*, February 25, 2016.

The New York Times

Inside Art: *Evolving Rooms*

By Robin Pogrebin | February 25, 2016



A detail of the installation “A Trap in Soft Division” in progress by Samara Golden. Courtesy of the artist and Night Gallery, Los Angeles

Upon receiving a commission to do an installation for the Yerba Buena Center for the Arts in San Francisco, Samara Golden imagined a series of simple rooms containing little except laptops and neatly folded towels, evoking monotony and isolation.

“Like a nightmare of having everyone in their own rooms with no entrance or exit, living a disconnected life — despite being connected via the Internet,” Ms. Golden said. “Then I just always need to change things and make it feel more complicated.”

It was the gallery space itself that inspired her to rethink her approach: 18 ceiling vaults with skylights. “It almost looks like a cathedral; the light is really beautiful,” she said. “I’ve just never been able to work in a space like this before.”

So instead, Ms. Golden has created a room in each vault — “18 different ways of being and thinking,” she said — made up of three types. The plain, hotel-like rooms with laptops are lit with cold LED bulbs; the rooms with curtains are warmer, with coffee tables full of leftover drinks and desserts.



The rooms with stained-glass windows are cozy and cluttered, with crocheted blankets thrown over the sofas, spilled drinks on the coffee table, piles of clothes on the floor and laundry baskets full of socks. "It's really messy in there," Ms. Golden said.