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Dave Allen

THE SHOWROOM
44 Bonner Road, E2 9JS
October 03 - November 05

Rock 'n' roll may typify adolescent excess, but Dave Allen's explorations of it are both mature and restrained. *Hansa Silence Recording*, 2001, is a recording of the ambient studio sound in the famed Hansa by the Wall studios in Berlin, where Bowie recorded *Heroes* and *Low*, in 1976 and 1977 respectively (Scottish-born Allen has been resident of Berlin for many years). Allen's recording—hissing and humming through speakers—is both hopeful and hopeless, a fanatical attempt to capture the atmosphere of a revered place. In the end, it dissolves into fantasia, yet remains precious for all that. Another famous studio is honored, perversely, in another piece entitled *All that is not the Beatles, and therefore not Abbey Road*, 2001. On each of six plinths sits an epoxy resin cast of an LP, the Beatles' *White Album*, each groove becoming a peak, a physical reversal reminiscent of the group's own at the famous studios. Allen gives a nod to Bowie and the Beatles, to John Cage and Stockhausen, too, and I expect they would nod their approval back.

—Jeremy Millar