

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

ARTS | PHOTOGRAPHY

Photography Preview: Shows to See in 2016

Galleries and museums are showing photography all over New York City



Christopher Payne 'Autopsy theater, St. Elizabeth's Hospital, Washington, DC.' PHOTO: CHRISTOPHER PAYNE/BENRUBI GALLERY, NYC

By **WILLIAM MEYERS**

Dec. 30, 2015 7:01 p.m. ET

Christopher Payne: Asylum

Benrubi Gallery

521 W. 26th St., 2nd floor

Feb. 11 through March 26

benrubigallery.com

Christopher Payne's education in architecture served him well as he explored largely abandoned state mental hospitals between 2002 and 2008. Payne's picture of the Buffalo State Hospital, for example, shows the imposing structure (designed by H.H. Richardson) enclosed in a cyclone fence. The ceiling of the ward bathroom of the Central State Hospital in Milledgeville, Ga., is open to the sky and the room is a shambles. Payne's work is moving, both beautiful and sad.