



Independent New York

THE TEN THINGS TO SEE AT NEW YORK CITY'S INDEPENDENT ART FAIR THIS WEEK-END

By **EDUARDO ANDRES ALFONSO**

It seems to be a law of cultural conservation that as one industry shifts its weight overseas another one moves to resettle the balance. That being the case, the art world has encamped itself in several New York venues to participate in art fairs opening this weekend. So while much of the V team has gone abroad for fashion week, those of us left in New York have the pleasure of enjoying a coming-together of international galleries in Spring Studios for The Independent Art Fair. Spring Studios is a fitting new permanent home for the fair, providing space on 4 floors for less than 50 booths. This new location sets The Independent apart, and all the mini-exhibitions conceived by the participating galleries benefit from the diaphanous quality of the space, which sets itself apart from the dizzying single-level-labyrinth that characterizes most fairs. And it is exactly to the point that Independent is not like most fairs.

Its co-founders, Elizabeth Dee and Darren Flock, and organizers have been slow to accrue new participants since its inception 6 years ago, keeping inclusions coveted and notable. This year's six new comers were exhibited on the ground floor and provided a strong opening note: Mark Greenwald's 1975 "cult masterpiece," Bright Promise (for Simon) at Garth Greenan's booth is an intense tableau of sexual intrigue that plays well off of Beck Suss's Living Room (six paintings, four plates) at Fleisher Ollman a couple of partition walls away.

Moving from the ground floor to the 7th floor mezzanine – where Marina Adam's Large Dream at Karma was blissfully airy and worth lingering amidst before taking the plunge into the rest of the fair—we then moved from top to bottom. The breadth of work, the varied installations and the ideal venue hold one's attention past the point where visual fatigue sets in. Yngve Holen's personified car parts, Hater Headlights, are a close encounter—of the third kind—that transport you into Philippe Decrauzant's 24 Paintings, a meditative chapel-like experience put on by Elizabeth Dee. Though we can't elaborate on every piece worth elaborating on (there were many), we highly recommend taking a tour through Spring Studios and taking-in Independent's sample of the art world this weekend.

Independent Art Fair is located at 50 Varick Street and is open this weekend, Saturday and Sunday, from 12 – 7 and 12 – 6, respectively. More information can be found at <http://independenthq.com/>

