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Independent New York 2017: Kitchen Sinks Welcome

by Audra Lambert

Independent New York 2017 is a robust and rousing affair, ranging the art spectrum from sound art and installation art to collage and painting. From Gavin Brown to David Lewis, focus at the fair was on keeping an eye toward the unexpected while remaining relevant to current and upcoming art exhibits. Wide-ranging textures, as well as light and sound, were recurring themes through the fair's floors as exhibitors favored non-traditional materials and practices. There was something for everyone, from bodega shopping bags strewn across the floor to deconstructed art books strewn across a table. Some more memorable offerings on view managed to present a cohesive vision while introducing thought-provoking elements to visitors. This is a run of our top encounters.



*Derrick Alexis Coard
and Embah, White Columns*

Haunting portraits and expressionist visions greet visitors to White Columns' space on the 7th floor in the work of Derrick Alexis Coard and Embah, two self-taught artists who masterfully reveal the elevated human spirit. Through his reverential portraits of bearded black males, Coard exalts the spiritual in his subjects. Dignity of the spirit is a shared trait between works by Coard and Embah, as Embah's work, *Spiritual Interview*, is a master study in composition and color.

<https://www.whitecolumns.org/>

*Derrick Alexis Coard
Installation view at White Columns, Independent NY
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courtesy the author*