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Cathy Lu Installation view MICKI MENG

Independent 20th Century and the Armory Show Reviews: An Inclusive Kickoff to the Art Season

One fair looks to expand the modernist canon while another highlights the many voices working in contemporary art.

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Installation view, Anthony Goicolea PHOTO: CRONE BERLIN

Elsewhere, at Loock Galerie, Hayley Quentin's delicate canvases of watercolor and colored pencil explore themes of mirroring and female identity with diaphanous hints of ghostly women peering out at the viewer. Patel Brown pairs work by Marigold Santos and by Rajni Perera in a booth that dives into ideas of masking and how we present ourselves to others. In Ms. Santos's acrylics, a widebrimmed salakot—a traditional hat from the artist's homeland of the Philippines—hides the face of a shape-shifting figure. In Ms. Perera's large mixed-media piece, a trio of nudes float ethereally underwater, wearing masks tied to her Sri Lankan heritage. Another masked figure Brobdingnagian and rendered in polymer clay —crawls across the floor, a creative collaboration between the two artists.

At Overduin & Co. both Poppy Jones and Nicholas Bierk embrace realism but take it in different directions. Her finely rendered