

# The New York Times

## ART & DESIGN

### What to See in New York Art Galleries This Week

By MARTHA SCHWENDENER, ROBERTA SMITH, WILL HEINRICH and KAREN ROSENBERG NOV. 17, 2016

#### 'Implosion 20'

*Anton Kern Gallery  
532 West 20th Street, Chelsea  
Through Dec. 22*

Adroitly scrunched into a midsize gallery, "Implosion: 20" is an excellent group show of 39 artists that feels like a mini-biennial in its sweep and diversity. It celebrates the Anton Kern Gallery's 20th anniversary, the conclusion of its Chelsea lease and its pending relocation to 55th Street, near Fifth Avenue.

The exhibition represents nearly every artist to whom the gallery has given a solo show; their efforts tend to be impressive. Sometimes the work is new, like Nicole Eisenman's portrait of Richard Hell, which channels Michael Jackson by way of Ed Paschke. Sometimes it's old, like Marcel Odenbach's four-minute video, from 1977-79, "The Eternal Creative Hands or for All Art Historians," which features the artist's fidgeting hands. Sometimes it's in between, like Manfred Pernice's "Objekt (object)" from 2008, a cryptic comment on a museum display, or Jim Lambie's wall-invading vortex in homage to Jimi Hendrix (2011). (There are also works by a few sentimental favorites, notably the German painter Georg Baselitz, Mr. Kern's father.) A majority of the artists made their New York debuts here, among them Mark Grotjahn, Jonas Wood, Lara Schnitger, Shio Kusaka, Saul Fletcher, John Bock and Marepe.

Perhaps most important, this gathering also celebrates unusually ecumenical, eyes-first ways of looking — the search for convincing ratios of innovation to authenticity. In a time overrun with artists who simply go through the motions, this is very refreshing.

ROBERTA SMITH



An installation view of "Implosion 20" at the Anton Kern Gallery with, from left, a video by Marcel Odenbach; Brian Calvin's "Intimates," an acrylic painting; two untitled Saul Fletcher mixed-media works and Matt Mullican's mixed-media presentation, "Live Under Hypnosis."

2016 Marcel Odenbach/Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York; Courtesy of the artists and Thomas Müller/Anton Kern Gallery

A version of this article appears in print on November 18, 2016, on page C25 of the New York edition.