

Artspace

INSIDER ACCESS TO THE WORLD'S BEST ART

8 of the Best Artworks at EXPO Chicago 2014

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The third edition of EXPO Chicago, the midwest culture hub's reincarnated art fair, returned to the city this week with a strong gallery roster, healthy attendance, and what seemed to be a newly vigorous sense of purpose. A common refrain among dealers—many of whom stoically stuck through the first two editions in hopes it would catch on—was that the fair had "turned a corner," with the heartland's hoped-for collectors, curators, and students showing up in force, and sales ringing up in both the middle and high ranges. Intriguingly, a number of dealers also brought work by artists that marked turning points in their careers, either by evolving previous processes or bringing attention to oeuvres too long unheralded. Here, below, is a roundup of a few of the best artworks on view in the fair.



SHEREE HOVSEPIAN

Honey Trap (2014)

Monique Meloche

\$8,500

The Iranian-born artist Sheree Hovsepian has been working with photograms, producing abstract images—such as in her "Haptic Wonders" series—that seem to exist, palpably, in real space. In her presentation at Monique Meloche's booth, Hovsepian has one-upped this illusionistic effect by bringing her work into three dimensions, displaying a series of photograms alongside several attenuated, Giacometti-esque sculptures (cast in the lost-wax technique) and this beguiling hybrid: an accumulation of multiple gestures, it consists of a digital photograph she took of a pin-pricked sheet she placed over her studio window, then drew upon with graphite, then tacked up with a waning photogram, then finally embellished with a constellation of string wrapped taut around nails. It suggests a breakthrough for the artist, who recently had a survey at Toronto's Gallery 44, Centre for Contemporary Photography.