

Best Buys: Eight Artists at Independent to Collect for Under \$15,000 (If You're Lucky and Move Fast)

There are some really excellent works on offer in the fair this year, but they won't be available for long.

Taylor Dafoe & Tim Schneider, March 7, 2019

A shivering crowd half the length of a city block lined up outside the entrance to Independent New York Thursday morning, all braving the biting cold for their turn inside the VIP opening of the fair's 11th edition. Their eagerness makes sense. Unlike its bigger and brasher brethren on the New York fair circuit, Independent has earned a reputation for measured, thoughtful work curated into an environment designed to avoid the suffocating cubicles-and-aisles format we all love to hate. For collectors, it's a great place to acquire art by up-and-comers, left-field gems, and critical darlings whose markets haven't yet caught up to the quality of their work—often for a surprisingly attractive price. With that in mind, here are our choices for the “best buys” of the fair, all coming in under \$15,000.



Genevieve Gagnard, *Between The Lines* (2019). Courtesy of the artist and Monique Meloche Gallery, Chicago.

Booth: Monique Meloche Gallery

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What It Costs: \$7,000 to \$10,000 each

Why It's a Deal: Genevieve Gaignard is perhaps best known for her performative photographs in which she assumes different personas across the spectrums of race and class. But her mixed-media work, like this one on display at Monique Meloche's booth, is just as impressive. And it deals with similar themes: the commodification of ethnicity, representation in media, and that distinctly American brand of campiness. In April, Gaignard will open a solo show at Meloche—her first with the gallery—devoted to this new body of work. If you're hoping to purchase one of these pieces, that upcoming show might be your best bet—the artist's work on view in the fair sold within hours of the VIP opening.

—Taylor Dafoe