



From Contemporary Surrealism to Queer Photography, 6 Highlights of the Independent

The sort of art fair that critics happily attend even when not contractually obligated to do so.

By [SCOTT INDRISEK](#) | Mar 7 2019

New York's overwhelming week of art fairs is upon us. If you're allergic to the manic crowds and unwieldiness of the Armory Show, you're certainly not alone--so don't feel guilty about skipping that whole affair. Head downtown instead to the [Independent](#), with its tight roster (only 65 exhibitors) and airy, sunlit space in Tribeca. It's the sort of art fair that critics happily attend even when we're not contractually obligated to do so. While there's plenty to see (including Peter Hujar at Maureen Paley, and Martine Syms, presented by ICA London) here are 6 artists well-worth lingering over—and collecting. Genevieve Gaignard at Monique Meloche Gallery



Genevieve Gaignard, *She's So Articulate*, 2018, Collage on Panel, 30 x 20 inches. Courtesy of the artist and Monique Meloche Gallery.

With poise, sass, and a dash of camp, Gaignard's wild photographs and installations spring from her own experience as a multiracial artist in America. She's best known for body-positive self-portraits in which she

moniquemeloche

451 N Paulina Street, Chicago 60622

312 243 2129 moniquemeloche.com

adopts various personas--from shy nerds in cat sweaters to devil-may-care divas. Her Chicago-based gallery, showing at Independent for the first time, has dedicated its booth to artists who were previously included in the "F-show" series at the Studio Museum in Harlem (in addition to Gaignard, that includes talent like Rashid Johnson and Nate Young). "The piece we are including juxtaposes varied elements: vintage wallpaper, images culled from vintage issues of *Ebony*, *Jet*, and *Life* magazine, and other found objects," says gallery director Aniko Berman of the work they're bringing to the fair. "It's at once a new direction and a continuation of Gaignard's well-known staged photographs and installations exploring race, class, and domesticity."