

5 Must-See Exhibitions in New York: Pia Camil, Alex Bag, and More

BY SCOTT INDRISEK | JANUARY 19, 2016

Alex Bag at [Team](#), through February 28 (47 Wooster Street)

This hilarious and fearless artist — who I think is personally responsible for affecting the course of everything from hyperkinetic video art, à la Ryan Trecartin, to the bizzaro, A.D.D. tempo of things like “Wonder Showzen” and much Adult Swim programming — currently has a major show up at ICA Miami, which is where the film being screened in New York was conceived and shot. “The Van (Redux)*” is a continuation of a piece from 2001 in which Bag portrayed three distinctly overwrought artists under the questionable tutelage of their dealer, Leroy LeLoup (played by Bag’s brother). In this update, LeLoup has become a protege of an unnamed art-flipper who is most definitely Stefan Simchowitz, a man notable for the unwise decision of posing in his boxer briefs for the newspaper of record, and for evincing an almost astounding lack of self-awareness (not to mention the inability to identify, or process, sarcasm) via various social-media platforms. Bag doesn’t appear herself in “The Van (Redux)*,” though the roles of three aspiring, 5-year-old artists are played by her son, August, who demonstrates an astounding, Cindy Shermanesque aptitude for both theatrics and wig-wearing. I won’t give away too much of the plot — go watch the whole piece, preferably at the end of your downtown art crawl, when it might prove a helpful antidote — but Bag is after more than just laughs at the expense of an art world still salivating over budding Zombie Formalists and obsessed with the New and Young. The fact that Team’s Grand Street location is showing an exhibition of paintings by Andrew Gbur only helps to complicate her devil-may-care satire.