GLADSTONE GALLERY

Dean Kissick, "the most curious booths at the NADA art fair" *i-D Magazine*. May 15, 2015.

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the most curious booths at the NADA art fair

Monsters, drag artist alter egos, and Queer Thoughts at NADA.

BY DEAN KISSICK | 15.5.15

Inside a place called Basketball City, a large indoor complex of basketball courts, yesterday's opening of young art fair NADA (New Art Dealers Alliance) in New York offers an alternative to the all-consuming behemoth of Frieze. Here a collective of smaller galleries, and some alternative galleries and artist-run spaces, show their favorite artists; many of whom you might not have heard of. The fair is free to visit, and if you are looking for something a little different, well how about…

David Rappeneau, Queer Thoughts, New York
Here are some paintings - in acrylic, ballpoint pen, charcoal pencil and pencil - of hard, highly contorted girls with braided hair in tower blocks, captured in unusual perspectives. They smoke cigarettes on a balcony, they roll joints, and they sit on bedroom floors by tossed condoms and crumpled tissues under ornate silhouettes of the outside world.

Perhaps there is nothing much conceptual to say about this work. It looks like comics, like illustrations, more than it does art. But it is drawn rather beautifully, using traditional techniques to picture a world so contemporary, so enticing, that you want to step inside the frame and hang out in its world. Everything is louche, and like the Vaginal temple there is a light seediness spread over these works.

Queer Thoughts, it so happens, is a space run by two artists Sam Lipp and Luis Miguel Bendaña that are currently in the process of relocating from Chicago to New York. They tell me that it is not a space only for queer artists, that they are happy to work with anyone of course; and also that they are hoping to help expand the word "queer," to transcend sexuality and embrace the peculiar. So this is not your average gallery, clearly, and it is all the more interesting for that.