

GLADSTONE GALLERY

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My Kind of Town: A Breeze Through Chicago in 9 Brief Reviews

BY **ANDREW RUSSETH**
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David Rappeneau, *Untitled*, 2014.

COURTESY THE ARTIST AND QUEER THOUGHTS

The season is barely three weeks old, and the art fairs are already coming on fast. Last week alone **featured** the bracingly hip Art Berlin Contemporary (one of those fairs that pretends not to be a fair), Cosmospow (the last real contemporary art fair still standing in Russia), and the fledgling Expo Chicago. We all know that fairs are making a mess of art, pressuring artists to overproduce and generally making their work look terrible, but one upside is that they let us regularly touch down in new cities and see the sights. I was in Chicago last week, and had the chance to see a boatload of art, and a lot of it was very good. Below, a quick survey of the scene.

1. “David Rappeneau: \$” at Queer Thoughts
(http://qtgallery.net/pages/Exhibitions/David_Rappeneau.html)

The mysterious David Rappeneau—all the gallery will reveal is that he is French and an Internet sensation—makes intimate, luscious, and often disturbing drawings of extremely beautiful young people hanging out just as the party is getting off the ground. They’re rolling joints, wolfing down pills, checking their cell phones, taking a piss, or smoking in a pool. Everyone is tall. The men are all chiseled, and the women all have huge breasts and asses, which look even bigger than they probably are because Rappeneau warps the perspective in his drawings so that it seems that we’re looking through a fisheye lens, or maybe down from a K hole. Lovingly rendered, they look less like art than obsessive and very personal fantasies, which makes them especially piquant. This is easily the best thing I saw in Chicago, which makes it sad to report that the show closed on Sunday.