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ART FAIR REVIEW

Independent 20th Century's Artists in a Cozy New Fair Spinoff

Just 32 booths this year, a show of artists both famous and unknown at the southern tip of Manhattan is high quality — and sometimes thrilling.

By Will Heinrich

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The Independent Art Fair, already curated and intimate, has gotten even cozier. In its brand-new spinoff, Independent 20th Century — some 32 galleries showing work by 20th-century artists both famous and unfamiliar — occupies a single floor of the Battery Maritime Building on South Street. (I found the building a little claustrophobic when it hosted the regular Independent last year, but for this it works perfectly.)

Despite the fair's small scale, there's plenty of room for surprises — a copy of Yayoi Kusama's porn magazine (**Specific Object at Susan Inglett Gallery**); photographs of the conceptual artist André Cadere marching around 1970s SoHo with one of his celebrated round bars of wood over his shoulder like a rifle (**Galerie Hervé Bize/Nicole Klagsbrun**). What follows is a list of highlights, but the overall level of work is consistent enough, and high enough, that it would be hard to go wrong. Note that the booths don't have numbers, only names, and that the [Online Viewing Room](#) will remain accessible through the end of the month.