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Our 21 Favorite Moments From SPRING/BREAK Art Show

March 7, 2018 by *Kristina Adduci*



[SPRING/BREAK Art Show](#) kicked off yesterday, March 6th, 2018 for the second year in a row at 4 Times Square, also the home to arts organization [Chashama](#). Organized by Ambre Kelly and Andrew Gori, [SPRING/BREAK Art Show](#) brings together over 150 curators featuring 400+ artists. This year's theme, "Stranger Comes to Town," explores tensions of otherness, through concepts of migration, assimilation, and the nature of belonging.

We've selected some of our favorite booths, moments and encounters at this year's show.

6. Laia Cabrera and Isabelle Duverger, "Self on a Shelf"

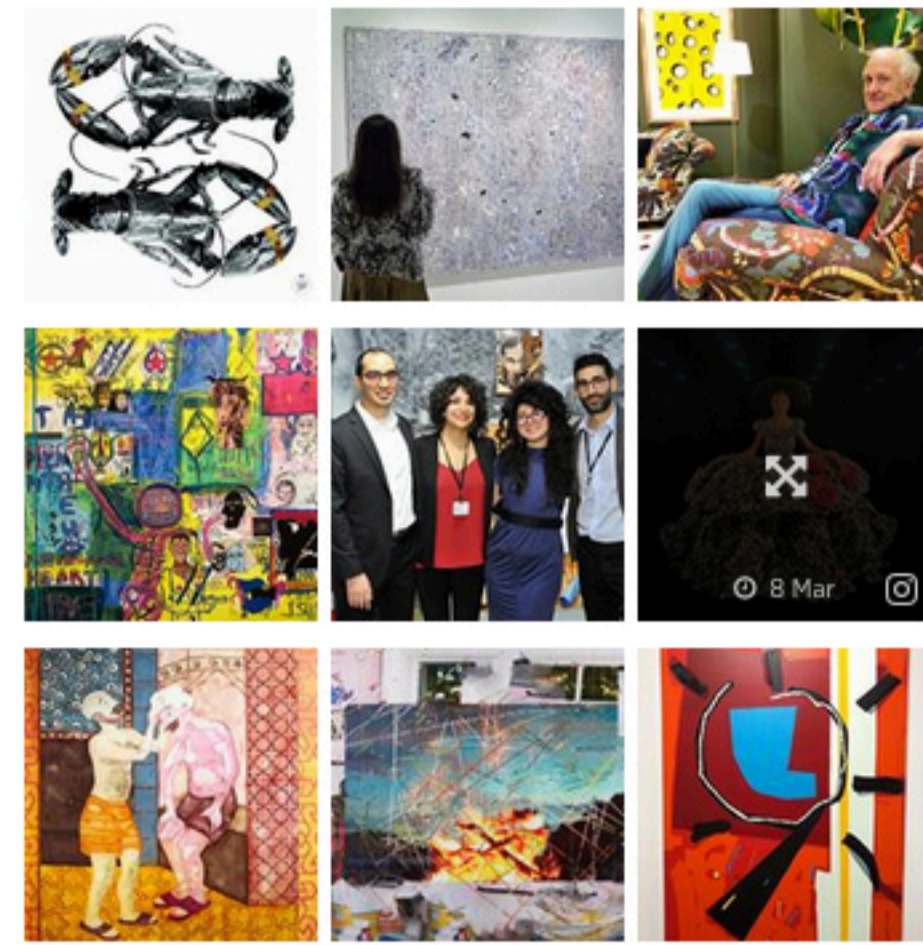


Curated by: Christine Miele

Room #: 2236

all images // [Sophia Schneider](#) for Art Zealous

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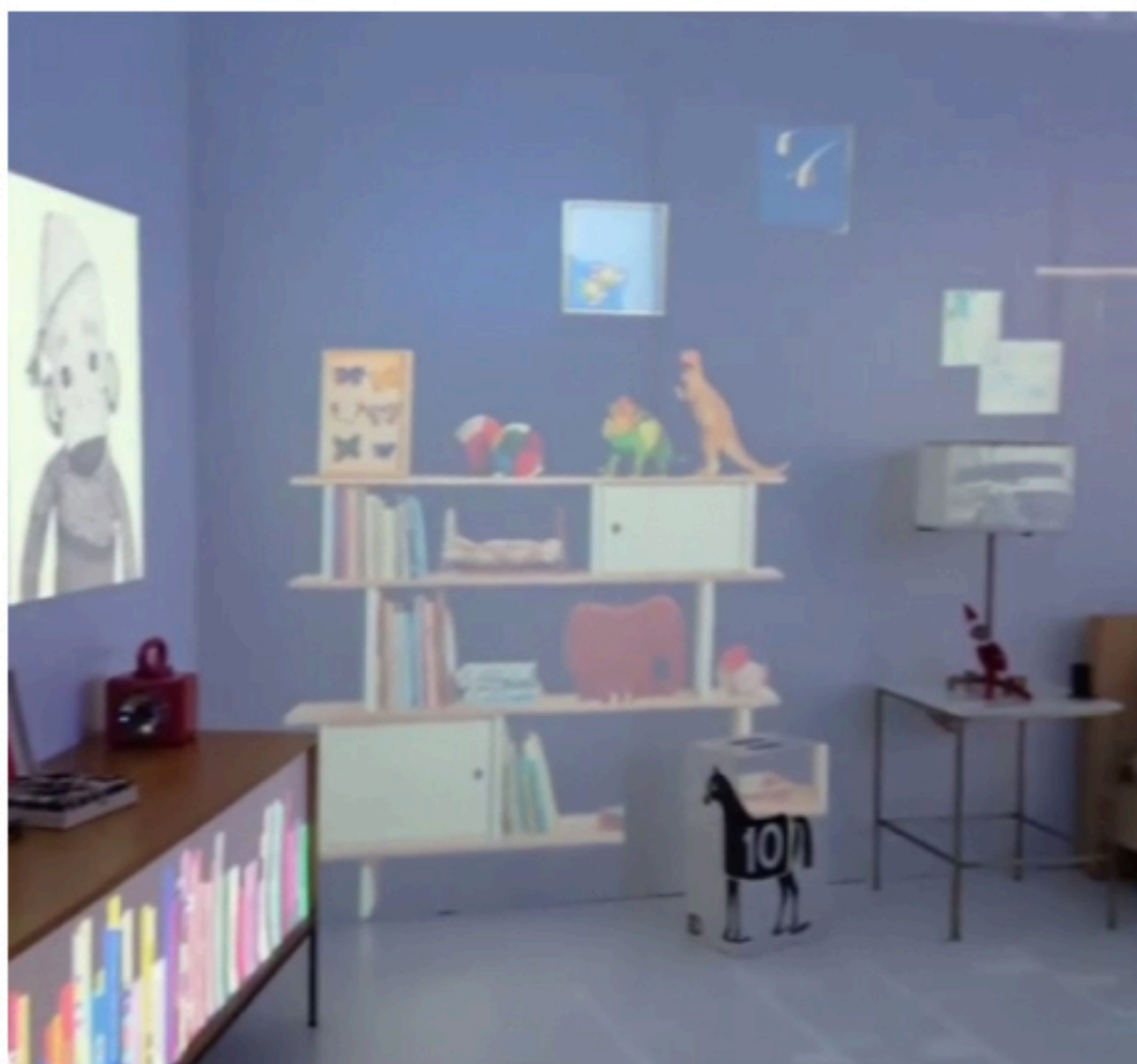
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AO ON-SITE – NEW YORK: SPRING/BREAK ART FAIR, MARCH 7TH – 12TH, 2018

March 7th, 2018

As the Armory Week begins to heat up, and turns towards the centerpiece of the week's proceedings at Piers 92 and 94 tomorrow, the first night of [SPRING/BREAK](#) was underway at 4 Times Square. Holding its seventh edition this year, the fair has grown into one of the more enigmatic and exciting events of the week, with this year being no exception.

Taking over the empty offices and cubicles of the otherwise banal corporate environment, and turning it towards a series of curator-based exhibitions and one-off projects, a freewheeling and imaginative expanse of works posed the space as a series of adventures and escapes. The show, which drew on the thematic construct "A Stranger Comes to Town," offered a nuanced reading of otherness, of time and narrative pulled out of sorts by strange encounters and foreign ideas, and twisted back along the routes of our own personal experience. "America's symbolic territories have consistently mobilized against the Outsider—even, as if obeying vampiric protocol, after inviting them straight in the front door," the show's program text reads. "Yet more than any other country, we are an entire nation of Strangers."



A rendered and projected environment by Laia Cabrera and Isabelle Duverger, via Art Observed

With a string of selling events focused primarily around sterile booth environments and minimal spaces set to open in the coming days, the [SPRING/BREAK](#) fair always seems to fit in as a welcome respite, both preparing the week's heartiest visitors and offering a refreshing moment of aesthetic exploration when the near-endless aisles of work spreading out across the rest of Manhattan begin to get overwhelming. For even as the sheer depth of work on view this week can make a stranger of any of us, the sheer depth and energy of the [SPRING/BREAK](#) show always manages to feel like a momentary home away from home.

The show is open through March 12th.

— D. Creahan

Read more:
[SPRING/BREAK Art Show \[Exhibition Site\]](#)

This entry was posted on Wednesday, March 7th, 2018 at 2:52 pm and is filed under [AO On Site](#), [Art News](#), [Featured Post](#), [Show](#). You can follow any responses to this entry through the [RSS 2.0](#) feed. You can leave a response, or [trackback](#) from your own site.

Politics, Strangers & Art Not to Miss at Spring/Break 2018

March 10, 2018 by Pat Rogers Art Fair Coverage, ART FAIRS, Happening Now, NEW YORK CITY

Spring/Break Art Show returns to the former Condé Nast building in Midtown Manhattan for its 2018 edition. Even before gaining entrance to the elevators that whisk upward to the 22nd or 23rd floor where the art fair was held, it was easy to expect some weirdness. After all, unexpected experiences and unusual sensations are bound to happen when you're a Stranger in a Strange Land (to quote the title of the 1961 science fiction novel by Robert A. Heinlein).

Spring/Break Art Show has an official curatorial directive of "Stranger Comes To Town" which allows curators plenty of room for ideas to grow while donning conceptual thinking caps and inviting artists whose work or art practice could develop the theme. Spring/Break Art Show differs from typical art fairs as it's curator-driven (versus galleries or art dealers presenting work by their artist stable that's likely to sell). Having a single fair-wide theme that underlies all the art presented at the fair is another important difference for Spring/Break Art Show. The fair is one of my favorites for its close connection to artists and the art making process.

In general, the 2018 edition felt stronger than last year with variations on the theme to be found in every office and cubby that stretched across nearly every square inch of two floors of edgy contemporary art. Politics of national or international scales were prominent throughout the fair. And, yes, Donald Trump was either directly or indirectly referenced in multiple artist presentations.

What resonated for me was art installations that manifested an emotional aspect of what it's like be human today while revealing something of the experience of living life right now across the world. All of the work selected possesses an element of the personal whether the experiences portrayed were those of the artist or channeled through empathy. Following are six artist installations that stood out above the crowd at Spring/Break Art Show 2018.

"Self on The Shelf" by Laia Cabrera and Isabelle Duverger. Curated by Christine Miele.

"Self on The Shelf" was a distinct departure from the installations and room presentations that dominated the fair. Presenting as a child's bedroom, the work was enlivened through the act of finding and pressing a black button to present a series of changing environment that combined a childlike innocence with adult self-examination that didn't scour. In an unexpected twist, the work contained a live projection component so participants could see themselves appear on the walls as part of the art installation. It's all part of the dreamlike environment and secret places that is more nice than not.

"Self on The Shelf" was dreamed up by a pair of visual artists with skills in projected mapping, film, video, animation and visual art. Add in an interaction designer, with skills in music video and engineering, a product designer to create toys to play with, along with an art director and a curator to create the full team to create the temporary environment.

Experiencing the installation was not nearly as complicated as the list of skills needed to create the fanciful work. The work is inspired by a childhood toy by the curator's son. His "Elf on the Shelf" was a toy that was a stand in for Santa Claus and, as part of his Christmas team, could report back on whether he was naughty or nice to determine the level of gifts delivered on Christmas Eve.

"The Self on The Shelf" can transform into both sweet dreams or nightmares where elves take over the room or storms envelop the room. Other actions will create the room to transform into a pool, a drawing that unfolds or to place the visitor in the room as way of looking themselves in the mirror.

Overall, the installation was a fun breathe in an art fair with work that could be heavy on the heart or harsh on the eyes.

Interactivity was provided by Nicola Carpeggiani, product design by Amy Pilkington and art direction by Laura Valenzuela. Music and sound design was created by Laia Cabrera and Isabelle Duverger.



"Self on The Shelf" by Laia Cabrera and Isabelle Duverger with Interactivity by Nicola Carpeggiani. Photo: Samuel Morgan Photography. Courtesy of Laia Cabrera.



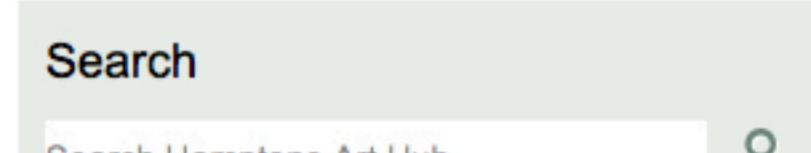
"Self on The Shelf" by Laia Cabrera and Isabelle Duverger with Interactivity by Nicola Carpeggiani. Photo: Samuel Morgan Photography. Courtesy of Laia Cabrera.



"Self on The Shelf" by Laia Cabrera and Isabelle Duverger with Interactivity by Nicola Carpeggiani. Photo: Samuel Morgan Photography. Courtesy of Laia Cabrera.

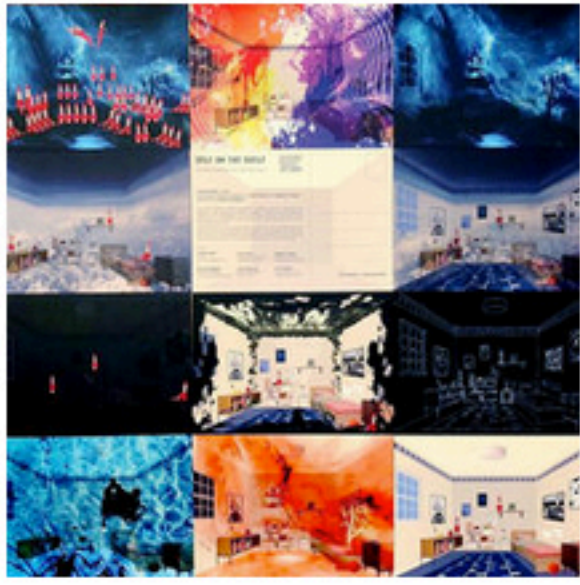


Visit quoguegallery.com for exhibition info and hours.



Self On The Shelf

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LAIA CABRERA, ISABELLE DUVERGER

Self On The Shelf

Curated by: [Christine Miele](#)

[Spring Break Art Show](#)

March 6th - March 12th

Opening: March 6th 5:00 PM - 9:00 PM

QUICK FACTS

COST: \$15-50

DESCRIPTION



In 'Self On The Shelf', filmmaker and videoartist Laia Cabrera and animator and video mapper Isabelle Duverger will co-create an interactive immersive installation for Spring Break Art Show, as part of the Armory Arts Week, turning a small boy's bedroom into a nightmarish dreamscape in honor of the eponymous elf which has become the symbol of our children's intimate acceptance of 21st century surveillance realities.

Through immersive interactive projection mapping, video art, illustration and animation, Laia Cabrera and Isabelle Duverger, in collaboration with interaction designer Nicola Carpeggiani, will create a child's bedroom and bring it to life as it responds to a series of clues or hints, which will be given to visitors as they enter the room.

Extracted from a 2012 journal entry about Chris' son and his relationship with James, his first Elf on the Shelf, the concept of this stranger from the North Pole was born. The dramatic visual effects will transform the room as the viewer explores feelings, emotions and limits between reality and fantasy.

Christine Miele, Curator

An Immersive Art Installation by [Laia Cabrera](#) and [Isabelle Duverger](#)

Interaction by Nicola Carpeggiani / Experiential Branding by Laura Valenzuela



Renders by Isabelle Duverger and Laia Cabrera

Self on the Shelf Immersive Interactive Video Mapping Art Installation Spring/Break Art Show, March 6-12, 2018

[Spring Break Art Show](#), as part of [Armory Arts Week](#)

4 Times Square, New York, NY - March 6-12, 2018 from 11am to 6pm

Guest Passes Here: [eventbrite.com/o/springbreak-art-show-12813445625](https://www.eventbrite.com/o/springbreak-art-show-12813445625)

Artwork on sale here: springbreakartfair.com



ART FAIRS NEW YORK CITY

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10 Things to Know for Armory Art Week 2018

March 7, 2018 • by Pat Rogers • Art Fair Previews, ART FAIRS, NEW YORK CITY

Armory Art Week is upon us. Barring any disruption from the predicted nor'easter / snow storm for Wednesday, the art fairs go into high gear with VIP events and Previews Tuesday to Thursday night. Absent special events, art fairs are open to visitors through Sunday, March 11, 2018. Art Fair Weeks bring their own surprises each year. Following are 10 things to know about the 2018 edition to help keep your plans on track.

4. Spring / Break Art Show Launches the Week on Tuesday Night

Spring/Break Art Show gets things started Tuesday day with back-to-back previews for press and invited guests (from 3 to 5 p.m.) followed by their Opening Night bash, held from 5 to 9 p.m. The fair returns to the same location as last year and unfolds across two floors of the office building (known as the Conde Nast building) located at 4 Times Square. Driven by curators (versus galleries), this year's theme is "STRANGER COMES TO TOWN" which promises to set quite the scene. [Tickets](#) to the Opening Night range from \$20 to \$50. For details, visit www.springbreakartshow.com.



Visitors explore the interactive immersive video installation "Self on The Shelf" by Laia Cabrera and Isabelle Duverger with interactivity by Nicole Carpeggiani at Spring/Break Art Show 2018. Photo by Pat Rogers.

SELF ON THE SHELF AT SPRING BREAK ART SHOW

EVENT DETAILS



Time: March 6, 2018 to March 12, 2018

Location: Times Square

Street: **4 Times Square (Entrance at 144 West 43rd Street)**

City/Town: **New York, NY**

Website or Map: <http://www.springbreakartshow...>

EVENT DESCRIPTION



In 'Self On The Shelf', filmmaker and videoartist Laia Cabrera and animator and video mapper Isabelle Duverger will co-create an interactive immersive installation for Spring Break Art Show, as part of the Armory Arts Week, turning a small boy's bedroom into a nightmarish dreamscape in honor of the eponymous elf which has become the symbol of our children's intimate acceptance of 21st century surveillance realities.

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Interaction by Nicola Carpeggiani / Experiential Branding by Laura Valenzuela



Renders by Isabelle Duverger and Laia Cabrera

Self on the Shelf Immersive Interactive Video Mapping Art Installation
Spring/Break Art Show, March 6-12, 2018

Spring Break Art Show, as part of Armory Arts Week

4 Times Square, New York, NY - March 6-12, 2018 from 11am to 6pm

Guest Passes Here: eventbrite.com/o/springbreak-art-show-12813445625

Artwork on sale here: springbreakartfair.com

ART

Watering the Imagination at the Spring Break Art Show

Even if the overall theme seems unrelated to much of the work on display, this art show has a way of allowing curators and artists to realize their own unique visions.



Seph Rodney

5 days ago



I'm told there's a theme to this year's Spring Break art fair: "[a] Stranger Comes to Town." I don't believe it. I mean, I don't believe that there really is any central conceit binding the 150+ curatorial projects and 400+ featured artists pressed within the spaces that Condé Nast media company once occupied, and this suspicion is visually borne out as I walk the event. But that hardly matters. I'm so taken with the fine handling of the materials, the way that each room, hallway, former corner office is wholly transformed into a small haven of aesthetic vision that even with the works I don't understand or particularly like I'm impressed by the degree of *care* taken to make them so.

While the Art Dealer's Association of America's fair ([which took place last week](#)) feels calmly oriented toward its upmarket clients, and the Armory Show feels fervently so — as if using expensive trappings to elbow other galleries aside to confirm a higher position on the status ladder — they and others tend to feel like highly organized bazaars. Alternatively, Spring Break feels like a greenhouse with several smaller gardens tucked inside. I didn't feel that I spent enough time there, though I was walking and looking for almost three hours.

I spend time in [Nate Lewis's](#) studio (curated by Dustin Yellin) looking at the black and white images he took of the 2017 presidential inauguration that he sculpts in a way that is the signature of his practice. In each picture of *Latent Tensions* the surface of the material on which the image is printed is picked and raised as if subjected to a ritual scarification that utterly changes the image's connotative meanings. Inspecting the work in his room which was painted black and carpeted with a deep, velvety black rug that under my feet buoyed up my weight imparting a slightly fey feeling to that room as if I had entered a lushly appointed cave. Also on the same floor of the fair that occupies the 22nd and 23rd floors of a midtown office tower, I experience the immersive work of [Kambui Olujimi](#) whose *Redshift*, curated by Melinda Wang, plunged me back into the events and aftermath of the [Unite the Right rally](#) at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville where, as Olujimi explained, the mythology of whiteness came to the surface. Against a backdrop of images of enraged white men carrying torches, which formed a kind of wallpaper that lined the room, Olujimi had also placed framed, hand-drawn watercolor images of white men and women who had attempted to kill sitting US Presidents — many of them lionized for acting based on their personal perceptions of being oppressed by a tyrannical government and its agents. This exhibition is a small but potent excavation of the mythology that imagines human agency as (only) rightly belonging to the bodies of those considered white.

Several other exhibitions were visually compelling or inventive, or so fully realized that I couldn't help but spend the necessary time to suss out their meanings. Lynn Sullivan and Dominic Nurre curated *Ours*, a lovely version of what looked like a miniature museum. The show *Self on the Shelf* curated by Christine Miele was one of those technology-driven extravaganzas that don't quite work as planned, but most of the time when I touched a black dot on a quotidian furnishing in what was designed to look like a bedroom, the whole scene shifted and music and images wafting across the walls made me feel like by touching the button, I had entered a wormhole.

Also pursuing that possibilities of digital technology, [Jonathan Rosen: Double Life](#), curated by Laura O'Reilly, Alessandra DeBenedetti, and Regina



Installation view of work by Melissa Maddonni Haims

Harsanyi presented a room full of huge screens that seen with my own eyes looked like a typical Twitter feed, but with an attendant holding up an iPad to filter the contents, became a three-dimensional stream of bots and ersatz identities floating to the "top" of a pell mell visual screen.

Spring Break feels like a reprieve, despite the nigh overwhelming hodge podge of the 23rd floor, and despite the fact that just the views from some of the (former) office windows can dwarf some of the work displayed. It is refreshing in its careful nurturing of each exhibition, as if one could remake the art fair model, one tiny garden at a time.

[The Spring/Break Art Show continues at 4 Times Square \(Entrance at 144 West 43rd Street\), Midtown, Manhattan until March 12.](#)

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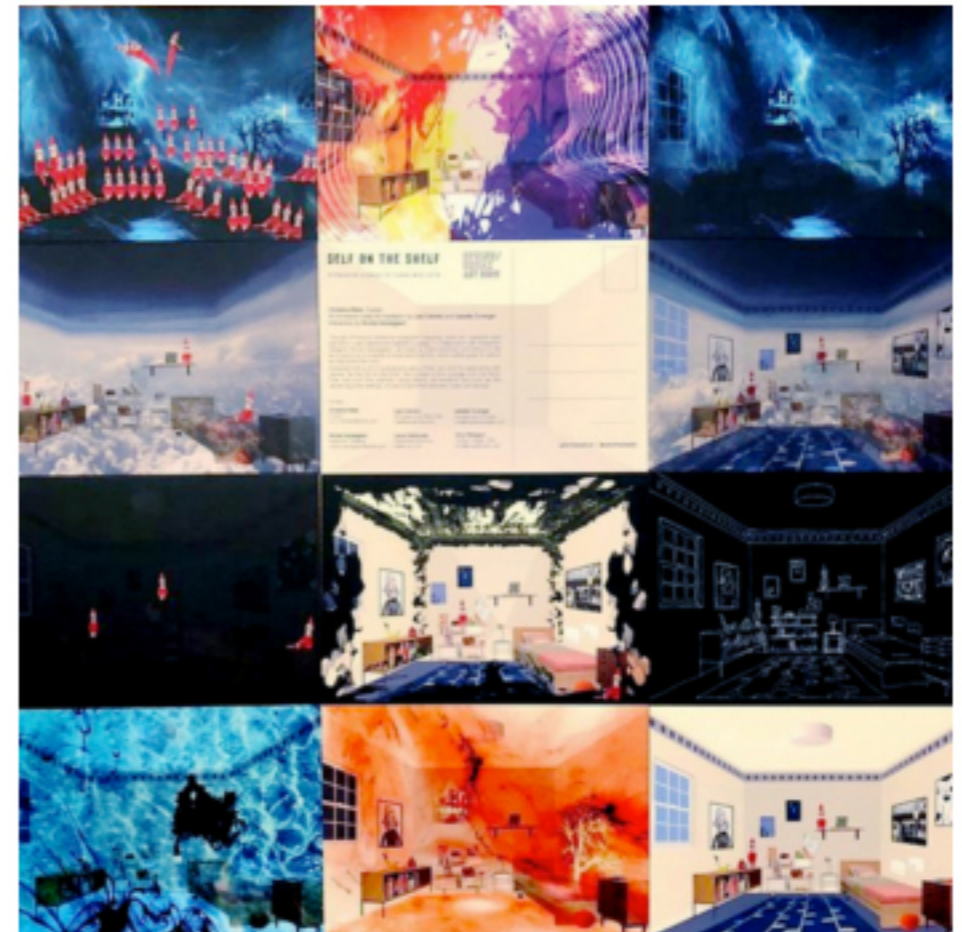
BUY TICKETS

March 10, 2018, 11:00 am - 6:00 pm at **Spring Break Art Show**, New York, NY 10036, USA

Price: \$15

www.springbreakartshow.com

In 'Self On The Shelf', filmmaker and videoartist Laia Cabrera and animator and video mapper Isabelle Duverger will co-create an interactive immersive installation, turning a small boy's bedroom into a nightmarish dreamscape in honor of the eponymous elf which has become the symbol of our children's intimate acceptance of 21st century surveillance realities. Through immersive interactive projection mapping, video art, illustration and animation, Laia Cabrera and Isabelle Duverger, in collaboration with interaction designer Nicola Carpeggiani, will create a child's bedroom and bring it to life as it responds to a series of clues or hints, which will be given to visitors as they enter the room. Extracted from a 2012 journal entry about Chris' son and his relationship with James, his first Elf on the Shelf, the concept of this stranger from the North Pole was born. The dramatic visual effects will transform the room as the viewer explores feelings, emotions and limits between reality and fantasy. Christine Miele, Curator / An Immersive Art Installation by Laia Cabrera and Isabelle Duverger / Interaction by Nicola Carpeggiani / Experiential Branding by Laura Valenzuela



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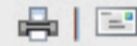
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NEW YORK. Laia Cabrera. SELF ON THE SHELF. Times Square. Spring Break Art Show 2018



6 – 12 march, 2018.



Spanish filmmaker Laia Cabrera and animator / videomapper Isabelle Duverger co-create an interactive immersive installation for Spring Break Art Show 2018. Through immersive interactive projection mapping, video art, illustration and animation, Laia Cabrera and Isabelle Duverger, in collaboration with interaction designer Nicola Carpeggiani, will create a child's bedroom and bring it to life as it responds to a series of clues or hints, which will be given to visitors as they enter the room.

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Laia Cabrera is a filmmaker and video artist born in Spain and based in New York since 1997. She merges cinematic arts, dance, music, theater and visual arts. Recipient of many awards including AVA and Telly awards, three-times NYIT nominee for Outstanding Innovative visual design in 2013, 2014 and 2015, and 2015 NYIT award winner for "Night" Outstanding Performance Art Production with the New Stage Theatre Company, KrTU Young Creators Grant, the 2010 Grant from the Consell Nacional de la Cultura i de les Arts (CONCA), and Kodak & Color Lab award for Best Cinematic film for "Under Influence" presented in festivals worldwide.

She is currently the creative director of the film & Multimedia company LAIA CABRERA & CO co-founded with French animator Isabelle Duverger, a team of film, animators and visual artists producing a wide range of multimedia projects and recently winner of the 2016 Silver Telly Award for Best Direction for "I AM" a short documentary featured in Vogue. She also curated and directed award winning multi-media international art shows and more. She is currently member of the Board of Directors of Topia Arts Center, Adams, MA and an advisory board member at the Fashion Institute of Technology (FIT) and director of their annual film documentary. She graduated from the Conservatoire of Barcelona, Spain, has a MFA in Audiovisual Communication and a BFA in Media Studies and Journalism from the Autonomous University of Barcelona, Spain, and in Film Production at the New School University in New York.

4 Times Square, New York, NY 10036. Entrance at 140 West 43rd Street

<http://www.springbreakartshow.com>

<http://www.laiacabrera.com>

Image: Laia Cabrera

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Creativity Expansion: Don't Miss These Exhibits at the Spring/Break Art Show 🎨🖼️

Camille Felicity on March 10, 2018 at 10:41 am

Subscribe to spoiled NYC's official newsletter, [The Stoop](#), for the best news, eats, drinks, places to go, and things to do.

Taking over two abandoned floors of the Condé Nast building in Times Square, the curators of this year's Spring/Break Art show explores current political tensions through the theme, 'A Stranger Comes to Town.'

Inspired by this quote attributed to Tolstoy. "All great literature is one of two stories; a hero goes on a journey, or a stranger comes to town," the theme, while a stretch in some exhibitions, encourages interactive exploration of over 130 booths in search of understanding if there is such a thing as a stranger at all.

Whether you love art, or want a dope Instagram shot, the Spring/Break Art Show is worth walking through tourists for.

Thoughtful, provocative, enticing, and affordable (the show is a pocket-friendly \$15, compared to [The Armory's](#) \$47) the Spring/Break Art Show will expand your interpretation of otherness, intimacy, and what it means to be an artist.

Here's a quick look at just a few of the many rooms of art:

[Self On The Shelf curated by Christine Miele](#) | Room 2236

The installation centers around Declan, the curator's son, and his relationship with James, his first Elf on the Shelf. The enchanted doll was believed to be sent by Santa himself to determine if Declan had been naughty or nice.

Nine environment-shifting black buttons are placed on objects throughout the installation, encouraging viewers to explore a narrative of the Elvin stranger living in the home.



Image courtesy of Samuel Morgan Photography

Working with filmmaker [Laia Cabrera](#), and animator [Isabelle Duverger](#), the room, reminiscent of a child's bedroom, is transported through memories, emotions, and experiences via video projection.

Through the exploration of trust and belief (the elf would be telling Santa if Declan was naughty or nice after all), mystery, and childhood, Miele explores the role a stranger may play in conjunction with a power dynamic through the lens of a child.



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SELF ON THE SHELF



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PARTICIPANTS

- **Laia Cabrera:** filmmaker and video artist.
- **Isabelle Duverger:** illustrator, animator and projection designer.
- **Nicola Carpeggiani:** interaction designer.
- **Christine Miele:** curator.

VISUAL ARTS NEW YORK

> Tue, March 06 –
Mon, March 12, 2018

VENUE >

4 Times Square, New York, NY 10036

ADMISSION

Buy tickets (from \$15). Opening hours: from 11 am to 6 pm.

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Spring Break Art Show

CREDITS

Image: illustration by Isabelle Duverger

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