

ARTFORUM

CRITICS' PICKS

“DTR”

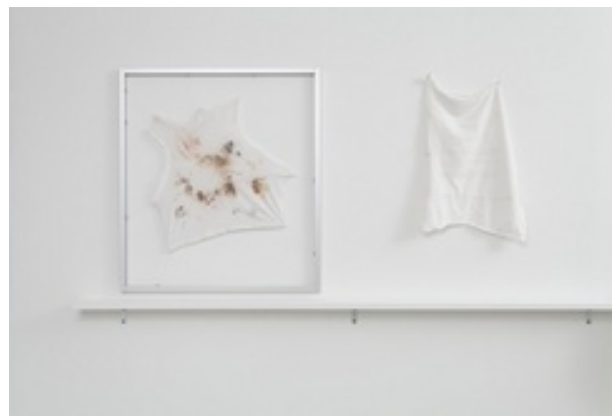
47 CANAL

47 Canal Street, 2nd Floor

June 27–August 3

View of “DTR,” 2014.

In its latest show, the collective BFFA3AE has erected two parallel walls that cut diagonally across the gallery's main room, sandwiching a handful of Mylar balloons, each emblazoned with a cheerful special-occasion message, an image of One Direction's Niall Horan or iCarly's Miranda Cosgrove. BFFA3AE—made up of Daniel Chew and Micaela Durand—is perhaps somewhat better known for Internet-based work, but here the group takes a thorough turn toward art IRL. Its recent output seems to celebrate the eager-beaver impulse to amass and admire that's shared by distinguished art collectors and enthused middle-schoolers alike, as Niall and Carly's mugs appear alongside pieces bursting with strains of Fluxus, Dada, and other art movements past. A monitor obscured by sheets of seaweed (a piece by Durand), for example, sits near a found soap dispenser in the shape of a lady's shoe.



View of “DTR,” 2014.

Across the room, rags by Chew are framed and decorated with stains, screenprints, and laser-cut lettering. Their titles (e.g., *Look #15: Printed 'trompe l'œil' shirt - Printed 'trompe l'œil' skirt - Stretch linen thigh high boots*, 2014) seemingly allude to both the cyclical transience of fashion and the semipermanence of collected art. Which leads us to the jumble of videos and paraphernalia—placemats, potting mix, and keyboards—in the gallery's foyer. The room, we're told, is BFFA3AE's “retrospective.” When taken as a comment on the pace at which the art world consumes young artists, it's not much. But considered as a hoard that represents both nostalgia and possibility to someone starry-eyed, it means everything.

— Dawn Chan