

NEW YORK

“Looking Back: The Ninth White Columns Annual”

✓ Critics' Pick

White Columns

320 W. 13th St., New York, NY 10014

212-924-4212

Thru 2/21

Tue-Sat, noon-6pm

Quick message to all those forever worrying that art is going to hell, that the art world is corrupt, that money is dominating the airways, or who endlessly accuse others of having bad values: This packed wunderkammer of a show tells us that art is taking good care of itself, isn't in bad shape, and that if one takes the time to get around, keep one's eyes open, and isn't guided by agendas, there are choice diamonds spread throughout the rough of the supposedly complicit art galleries. At least that's the message of the ninth installment of this annual survey, where outside curators select works of art that have been seen in New York over the previous year. This year, curators from the excellent collective Cleopatra's give us Josh Kine's embedded wall fridge of bottles of Red Bull and DayQuil; Lily van der Stokker's pink painted *Yelling Woman*; Guy Goodwin's huge colorful cardboard wall-thing; and much else that belies the doomsaying of moralizers and Chicken Littles. — Jerry Saltz