

Art in America

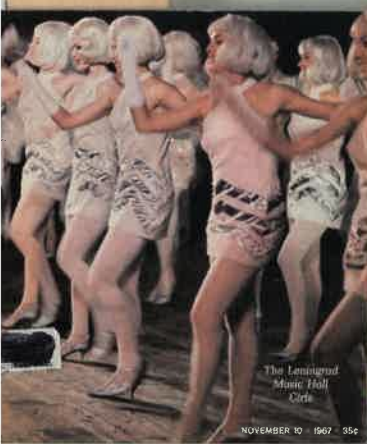
High School of Art, Emma L. Bull
March 1917



Now, pudding is pop.



and get to the other side.



The Leningrad Music Hall Girls
NOVEMBER 10, 1967 35c



THE TWO ACCUSED
—
The Psycho-biology of Violence



12.00US \$14.00CAN
74808 02106 2



COVER LEIGH LEDARE

\$1 DECEMBER 2017 COVER LEIGH LEDARE

CORPORATION

fied by their loosely gridded compositions; through the gaps, varied shadows were cast onto the walls, as if to emphasize the absence of canvas mediating the pictures. Like the exhibition's sculptures, the panels make reference to a Golden Age source: the miniatures of the *Menazilname*, a collection of topographic views of the Ottoman Empire that fifteenth-century cartographer Matrakçı Nasuh made while accompanying the imperial army. Though Al-Hadid's panels appear largely abstract, each contains winding veins of blue pigment that allude to the illustrations of waterways in the originals.

As the exhibition press release notes, the *Menazilname* includes depictions of Aleppo, Al-Hadid's birthplace; what it doesn't mention is that the city has been ravaged by a years-long civil war. But even if the artist never makes that link explicit, the reality of Aleppo's destruction hung over the works in the show, binding the faux ruins on view to the image of the actual ones.

—Rachel Wetzler

CELESTE DUPUY-SPENCER

Marlborough Contemporary

Los Angeles-based painter Celeste Dupuy-Spencer frequently mines news stories and her own personal experiences for her work's content, producing contemporary genre paintings that are politically charged but ambiguous in meaning. Most of the twelve paintings and five drawings featured in "Wild and Blue"—the first solo exhibition in New York for Dupuy-Spencer, who was included in the 2017 Whitney Biennial—were made after the 2016 presidential election. Overall, the selection foregrounded the complexity and texture of American life today.

The jovial group of people shown in *Rokeby* (2017) suggests a mix of blue-collar workers, artists, and liberal-arts professors. The scene is set on the porch of the main house at Rokeby, a sprawling estate in New York's Hudson Valley that serves as an artist retreat and rooming house. In the background of the image, the sky transitions from deep blue to acid orange, as if the sun were beginning to set, and a cloud formation casts a vaguely ominous glow. *Not Today Satan* (2017) offers a more overtly sinister image. In a dark, cloudy city, a troupe of demons and spirits, reminiscent of the grotesque creatures in Hieronymus Bosch's *Garden of Earthly Delights* (1490–1505), haunts a police cruiser bearing the slogan PROTECT AND SERVE on its side. The two white male officers visible through the car's front windows stare straight ahead (perhaps panicked, perhaps oblivious) as these specters that might symbolize brutality, injustice, or rage descend upon them. Which is the evil force here? The demons or the officers?

Love Me, Love Me, Love Me, I'm a Liberal (2017) is titled after a satirical 1966 song by Phil Ochs and likewise pokes fun at American liberals. A forlorn woman sits at a cluttered table with a bankruptcy statement in one hand and a cigarette in the other. On the tabletop, which occupies about half of the picture, are a handmade vase with the phrase FLOWERS NOT BOMBS scrawled on it, an NPR mug, and a book whose title,



The Burden of Blame: How to Convince People That It's Not Your Fault, humorously conjures an image of third-party-candidate supporters working through a sense of post-election guilt. *R. DiMeo III* (2017) is a portrait of a sunburned man with a receding hairline holding a fawn in his arms. The man's rugged masculinity at first appears tempered by his seemingly tender relationship with the animal. As one continues to look, however, it seems possible that this image of caretaking is instead one of entrapment and conquest. Such shifting meanings are a constant in Dupuy-Spencer's work. Though she gives her scenes a great deal of specificity, the details rarely add up to single narratives. Rather, they allow for a multiplicity of possible, at times conflicting plotlines, much like those of the national narrative itself.

—Eric Sutphin

Celeste Dupuy-Spencer: *Love Me, Love Me, Love Me, I'm a Liberal*, 2017, oil on canvas, 20 inches square; at Marlborough Contemporary.

KAHLIL ROBERT IRVING

Callicoon Fine Arts

Thematically poignant and technically dazzling, the eleven sculptures shown in Kahlil Robert Irving's first New York solo exhibition, "Streets: Chains: Cocktails," appear to be blocky assemblages of urban detritus—lyrical junk sculptures that bring to mind works by Arman, César, John Chamberlain, Noah Purifoy, and John Outterbridge. On closer inspection, however, the works prove to be ceramic objects—porcelain and stoneware—with embedded glass and stone elements. Precisely rendered soda bottles, paint cans, used fast-food containers, cigarette butts, crumpled newspaper pages, and other scraps of trash and gritty refuse appear mashed together with dirt and mortar in crude slabs or cubic shapes, as if the amalgamations had just emerged from a garbage compactor. Vinyl wallpaper