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Alex Bag and Patterson Beckwith, "Cash from Chaos: Unicorns and Rainbows," installation view, 2012, Team Gallery, New York

NYC Gallery Shows THE NEW YORK LIST, 4/4/2012 by Emily Nathan

Cash from Chaos/Unicorns & Rainbows: Alex Bag and Patterson Beckwith

Team Gallery
 83 Grand Street
 Mar. 29-Apr. 28, 2012

If you aren't familiar with the playfully aggressive, costumed antics of New York-based video artist-rapscallion Alex Bag (b. 1969), this show might be the perfect introduction. Team Gallery's Grand Street space has been transformed into a carpeted Ikea video lounge. In it, ten Sony television monitors sit on the ground surrounded by bean-bag chairs and ceiling-mounted hammocks, and they cumulatively screen ten hours worth of footage selected from Bag's late-night public access program collaboration, which she makes with Patterson Beckwith, a veteran of the legendary Art Club 2000. The show aired more than 15 years ago -- how time flies -- on Channel 34 at 2:30 am, from 1994 to 1997.

Every episode of the dystopic mishmash includes a variety of material, from prank calls and "cock-eyed tours" of New York City to decontextualized clips from cheesy soap operas like *Melrose Place*, and begins with the artists literally destroying a VHS tape copy of the previous week's edition -- burning, melting or smashing it in what seems a physical demonstration of cultural consumption and planned obsolescence.

When taken all together like this, Bag and Beckwith's early video art appears to epitomize the medium's original purpose - effectively reflecting and embodying the schizophrenic state of information dissemination in an increasingly saturated and fractured media space. The material is both dated, functioning as an archive of a specific New York, and timeless, offering a metaphor for the incessantly updated Twitter-feed which is our contemporary life.



Close Encounters PHOTOGRAPHS TAKEN AND NOT

by Linda Yablonsky

Apr. 4, 2012

Two new books on photography -- one containing artist testimonials about snapshots they didn't take, and one tracing the career of "amateur" documentarian Charles Cushman.

WILD STRAWBERRIES AT 55

by Charlie Finch

Apr. 4, 2012

Revisiting the legacy of Swedish auteur Ingmar Bergmann, and the beautiful women he cast in his films.

William Bailey CONSTRUCTED HALLUCINATIONS

by Donald Kuspit

Apr. 3, 2012

William Bailey's paintings are abstract fantasies whose forms and colors are more important than their emotional and social meaning.

ARTNET NEWS

Apr. 3, 2012

A Philip Roth cease and desist, protests greet BMW Guggenheim Lab in Berlin, Met finally gets Brooke Astor

bequest, expanded Stedelijk debuts in September 2012.

Art Law READING THE TEA LEAVES IN THE KNOEDLER MESS

by Daniel Grant

Apr. 3, 2012

Caught up in an FBI investigation and numerous lawsuits, the now-defunct Knoedler & Company gallery and its former director face a long slog.

NEW THIS MONTH IN U.S. MUSEUMS

Apr. 2, 2012

Herb Ritts, Heinrich Kuehn, Alex Katz prints, Daido Moriyama, Cai Guo-Qiang,

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- Alexandra Anderson-Spivy
- Michèle C. Cone
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- Charlie Finch
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