

From Time Bombs to Fruit Baskets: Goings-On in London, New York, and Los Angeles

BY **JAMIE STERNS**

London Art Pitch is a monthly column by Jamie Sterns, a New York curator and writer attending school in the British capital.

Recently returning to London from a short jaunt to New York and Los Angeles gave me an update on what is happening in these three respective cities. Everyone's favorite pastime, of comparing and contrasting these major art hubs to each other, is facile in the big scheme of things, but it does serve the purpose of teasing out some isolated regional developments. With this in mind, I will do a quick survey of the trends in each locale to give a taste of what is happening now and what may be in the air for the coming months.

Lastly, L.A. To get to the heart of it, L.A. was full of more pink, body parts (especially penises), and transparent paintings than I could have ever imagined. The abundance of these three things was so overwhelming that it was annoying at times, but alas, when thinking it over, one can understand why this might be the case. With so much blasting sun, it is hard not to think of the body and the oozing of sex that is produced from the exposure and maintenance of body parts. Two solo shows that embody this trend (in a fun/not annoying way) were **Alex Chaves at Night Gallery**, which just closed, and **Elad Lassry at David Kordansky**, which runs through November 5.



Installation view of **Alex Chaves** at **Night Gallery**.

COURTESY NIGHT GALLERY

Chaves is a painterly sort and he gamely mixes styles, tapping van Gogh, Gauguin, and puffy paint to make images, textures, and color choices that are both garish and quirky. He paints interiors, still lifes, and male nudes spread eagle, but in all of them there is a sweetness and a sort of private effort that makes them sentimental, but not in a pathetic way. Rather, they feel like postcards from the heart and memory prisms to spread feelings through light and color.