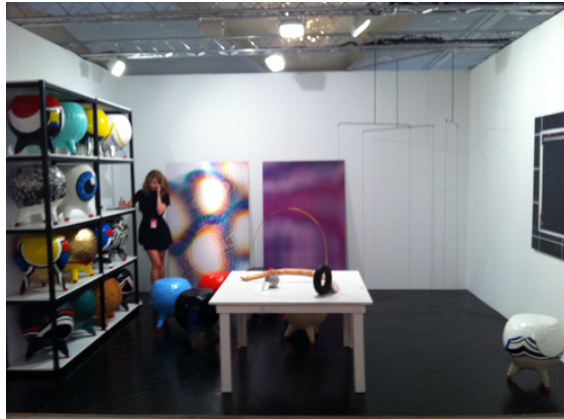


KATE WERBLE GALLERY

83 VANDAM STREET NEW YORK, NY 10013

ARTINFO

**NADA BEST BOOTH PRIZE AWARDED TO TWO GALLERIES
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MIAMI— The New Art Dealers Alliance fair is nothing if not innovative, and in that spirit the three judges of NADA's best booth prize — LAND founder and curator Shamim Momin, *W* magazine feature editor Armand Limnander, and ARTINFO executive editor Andrew M. Goldstein — opted to split the honor between two stands, one for curated presentation and one for art-content "punch." The former citation went to New York's Kate Werble Gallery, the latter to François Ghebaly Gallery of Los Angeles for its single-artist booth devoted to Joel Kyack. Two bottles of champagne were procured to celebrate the awarding of the \$7,000 prize (this year divided into two \$3,500 chunks) sponsored by 7 for All Mankind jeans.

Werble's display stood out for the caliber of its assortment of artwork playing on the tradition of Minimalist art. Featuring a black wooden sculpture by Ryan Reggiani on its floor that resembles Frank Stella's early paintings — it's called "Untitled (Art for the Floor)" — the stand also holds a hanging chain piece by Sarah Wood that recalls Fred Sandbeck's string works, a playful array of colorful resin-and-styrofoam stools by Christopher Chiappa positioned on shelves (titled "Stool Sample"), bright lenticular pieces by Gareth Long that riff on the design of J.D. Salinger's iconic paperback covers, and a photograph by John Lehr.

In the solo-presentation section of the fair, François Ghebaly occupies a prime slot that, while nestled in the back, affords beautiful views of the blue waves crashing on the beach outside. The selection of Kyack's work exudes electricity and inventive dazzle. In the center of the booth are three tongue-in-cheek fountains: a plastic eight-foot-long salami-and -cheese hoagie flowing with water dyed white to resemble mayonnaise, a rough-hewn figure spouting yellow water from a tube emerging from its crotch, and a filing cabinet with two breast-like pink balloons and a stream of red water streaming from a sports cooler. The liquids, Ghebaly explained, cover the spectrum of colors that ooze from the human body.

Other works in the selection include a photograph of the artist posing, mouth agape, in front of a poster of a great white shark ("Self Portrait With Great White"), a photographic collage, paintings of empty frames, and pictures of a puppet show Kyack performed out of the back of his truck on L.A.'s highways that had characters discuss spiritual ennui and feelings of confinement.

It's somewhat fitting that the best booth prize went to both Werble and Ghebaly — coincidentally the two galleries have done programming together after meeting at last year's NADA fair, where their stands were positioned across from one another.

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