



Firestone Gallery Brings Street Art Vibe to SCOPE

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by Pat Rogers

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SCOPE Art Fair knows what it's like to pull yourself up by your bootstraps. Since inception, the fair has supported and presented emerging galleries showing artists trying to break into the art establishment. SCOPE has remained true to its roots but now presents a mix of new, on-their-way and established artists and likeminded galleries.

The Eric Firestone Gallery of East Hampton is matching SCOPE's style by bringing a mix of established artists and those sprinting from the gate. At SCOPE New York, the gallery is presenting art with a street art vibe.

Since opening in East Hampton in 2010, the Eric Firestone has presented art with a street art style (or actual street art) and cutting edge contemporary works mixed with art that may have inspired the work. The gallery is interested in popular culture, contemporary art and design, and street art, according to a release.

It's a gallery not afraid to take chances.

In its first summer season, the Eric Firestone Gallery held a "godfathers of graffiti" show completed with a tagged truck parked on tony Newtown Lane. Recently, it's presenting "The Boneyard Project: Return Trip" at the Pima Air and Space Museum in Tucson, AR. The show features over 30 artists who were invited to reinvent aircraft and airplane parts into art objects. The show remains on view through May 31, 2012.

"Nose Job," a show with a similar concept, was held at the East Hampton gallery last summer. The exhibition featured art made from the noses of planes.

The "Nose Job" project began with Eric Firestone and Carlo McCormick, who curated the show, "scouring the 'bone yards' of the Arizona desert where the old disused airplanes of America's air force go to die and collected a wide range of nose cones from these planes in various shapes and sizes," according to the gallery.

Artists were invited to use the discarded parts to make art as commentary on contemporary culture, the romance and recently-born fears associated with flying and the legacy of folk art made on military planes. "The Boneyard Project: Return Trip" continues these themes. It includes works

by Richard Prince, Ron English, Dan Colen, Tristan Eaton, Crash and Futura.

Meanwhile, at SCOPE New York, a gathering of art with street attitude is being presented. Here's a look at some of the works selected:



"Keith Haring, Pop Shop Tokyo," by Tseng Kwong Chi, 1988. Inkjet print on rag paper, 35 x 47 inches.



"Untitled" by Retna, 2011. Enamel on repurposed aircraft flooring (aluminum), 70.25 x 120 inches.



"Touch Water" by Darius Yektai, 2012. Oil on canvas, 64 x 68 inches.



"Fortune" by Faile, 2012. Acrylic, spray paint, silkscreen ink on wood, 70 x 137 inches.



"Homemade Hermes Birkin Bag" by Shelter Serra, 2012. Resin, 1/1, unique, 16 x 15 x 2 inches.



"Made in China (Melting Flag)" by Andrew Schoultz, 2011. Gold leaf and acrylic on American flag stretched over panel, 42 x 64 inches.

BASIC FACTS: The Eric Firestone Gallery is presented a group show at SCOPE New York at Booth F01. Exhibiting artists include Retna, Ryan Travis Christian, Jameson Ellis, Faile, Andrew Schoultz, Shelter Serra and Darius Yektai. The gallery is located at 4 Newtown Lane, East Hampton,

NY. www.ericfirestonegallery.com

SCOPE New York is being held from March 7, 2012 through 11 at the Scope Pavilion, 57th St and 12th Ave (West Side Highway). Hours are 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Friday and Saturday and 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Sunday. Admission is \$20 for adults and \$15 for students. www.scope-art.com

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