

MIER

“At Expo Chicago, New Discoveries and Unexpected Deals”

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Expo Chicago, held in the almost charmingly down-at-heels Navy Pier, continues to be a solid contender on the never-ending art-fair circuit, drawing blue-chip galleries like David Zwirner and White Cube while giving ample attention, via its Exposure roster, to pluckier talent — which means revelatory finds at price points in the low thousands.

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...I also seriously covet Mier Gallery’s graphite drawings (around \$3,000) by Cologne-based Jan-Ole Schiemann, which, culling their imagery from abstract shapes and forms in 1930s Bettie Boop movies, have the energy of comic-book pages with all the players removed and only the explosive remnants of the action left behind. (Large paintings mining the same left-field source material and incorporating washes of variously colored ink on raw canvas are priced between \$7,000 and \$16,000.)

If this sounds like a lot to take in, it is. For a respite, I suggest hiding out in Lisson Gallery’s booth for a while. There you’ll find one of Stanley Whitney’s kinetic paintings—a wobbly grid of color-gushing squares—next to a Haroon Mirza sound sculpture that incorporates a solar panel. The Mirza’s noise is all glitchy sputter, completely at odds with Whitney’s graceful splurge of pigment, and something in that disjunction might provide the total mental reset needed to return to this sprawling, and rewarding, fair.