

BLOUINARTINFO

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FIBER ART IS #TRENDING AT THE ARMORY

By Noelle Bodick

One easy way to avoid totally losing your mind at an art fair is to identify some kind of pattern amidst the gloried, sprawling hodgepodge. Often at a fair, big, shiny objects abound — ditto blank canvases, wan abstraction, and works of art that lie underfoot like pieces of debris. Of course, these aren't so much “trends” as they are just the stock and trade of the biz; an art trend with traction should probably connect somehow with events in the world outside of the fair, however far away that world may seem while trudging the endless aisles. At this year's Armory Show, however, one repeated feature seemed to fit the bill for true trend status, and that feature was fiber art — though animals, cutouts, and cutouts of animals were contenders, too. (Also, Furbys.) As critics have noted, weavings and fabric work have long been overlooked because of their “unserious” association with craft and domesticity. But after New York's Drawing Center and Boston's Institute of Contemporary Art validated the medium with major shows last year, it appears that well-heeled collectors are ready to embrace it, too. Here's a look at a few of the more interesting pieces we spotted:



At Eleven Rivington, Aiko Hachisuka has stuffed and sewn garments into a couch. (Unfortunately, though, the sign instructed us not to sit on it.) Nearby, Evan Nesbit has dyed and cut burlap, sewn it back together, and pushed paint through the tiny holes from the back.