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## The Creators Project

### Our 11 Favorite Works from the Dallas Art Fair

*Emerson Rosenthal — Apr 22 2016*



*Rachel Lee Hovananian, Perfect Baby Showroom, 2014. Installation with wallpaper, baby dolls, extension cords, metal, acrylic, wood, neon light, foam, cotton fabric, LED lights, cereal. Dimensions variable. Courtesy of the artist and Leila Heller Gallery, New York/Dubai*

As electric as was this year's Art Basel Miami Beach, no doubt the biggest challenge for art lovers was intimacy. But if Basel was speed dating, the Dallas Art Fair was a several-course meal, complete with palate-cleansing digital artworks and the ever-sumptuous pigmentary soufflés that are the high-performance market-movers of Richter, Lowman, Gillick, and Meese. It was nearly a week of facetime—not facades—new and old, and the kind of impassioned, one-on-one evening art convos that really only happen with a captive audience. (Not that being put up at The Joule, which lives up to its homophone in *degrees*, is any kind of captivity I'm against.) It was also the inaugural year for the Dallas Art Fair Foundation Acquisition Program, a fund that promises a thunderous future for all things contemporary at the Dallas Museum of Art.

As far as this list goes, it's by no means comprehensive; Oculus Rift artworks by Rachel Rossin at Zieher Smith & Horton have to be experienced in person, and Chul-Hyun Ahn's infinite mirror boxes at Grimaldis Gallery could make Michael Heizer weep. All in all, it's impossible to deny: big things are happening in the Big D. Here were some of our favorites:

**1. Rachel Lee Hovnanian's *Perfect Baby Showroom***



*Rachel Lee Hovnanian, Perfect Baby Showroom, 2014. Installation with wallpaper, baby dolls, extension cords, metal, acrylic, wood, neon light, foam, cotton fabric, LED lights, cereal. Dimensions variable. Courtesy of the artist and Leila Heller Gallery, New York/Dubai*

Babies are weird and gross, magical little sacks of soft bones, and mostly jelly. They're some of the most beautiful, intentional things people can make, making them an awful lot like art. This is why Rachel Lee Hovnanian's array of sculpted infants, seen above, was right at home on the first floor of the Fashion Industry Gallery building, ready to be picked up (and Instagrammed), provided you donned a smock and some hand sanitizer. Good art makes you engage with it physically; great art makes you worry it'll barf down the back of your shirt. This was both.