

MITCHELL-INNES & NASH

TimeOut

SCARY F\*\*KING  
TIMES



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NOT FOR RETAIL SALE

Get ready for one  
nasty night filled with  
angry pumpkins and  
terrifying monsters.  
Welcome to Halloween  
in New York!



## Elmgreen & Dragset



**BERLIN-BASED DUO** Elmgreen & Dragset have a reputation for producing teasing, attention-grabbing art to match Maurizio Cattelan's (like his of *America*, the Guggenheim's golden toilet). Their notoriously absurdist public projects have included *Prada Marfa* (2005), a fully stocked but hermetically sealed boutique located incongruously in the Texas desert, and *Van Gogh's Ear*, a sculpture of an upright swimming pool installed outside of Rockefeller Center this past summer. In "Changing Subjects," however, the pair offers a tight selection of gallery-bound installations from the past 20 years that highlights a somewhat more intimate and occasionally autobiographical side to their output.

The show opens with *Modern Moses* (2006), a wax figure of a baby in a basket that's seemingly abandoned beneath



an ATM, which here replaces the traditional doorstep as a poverty-stricken parent's last resort. It's a punchy one-liner of the kind that fans of Banksy will appreciate, as is *The Experiment* (2011), in which another wax figure, this time a small boy, poses before a mirror in high heels and lipstick.

The latter work's reflexive allusion to the formation and performance of gay identity—a recurrent theme in this show—suggests that a practice that sometimes feels both conceptually glib and formally airless may have more to offer.

■ *Michael Wilson*  
→ FLAG Art Foundation, through Dec 17

## "GCC: Positive Pathways (+)"



**WHILE THE POWER** of positive thinking—a popular if fuzzily defined lifestyle credo coined by author Norman Vincent Peale—is a familiar idea to most Americans, the slogan (if not the concept) is largely unknown in the Middle East. In its Mitchell-Innes & Nash debut, the six-member Arab artist "delegation" GCC (an allusion to the Gulf Cooperation Council) focuses on the growth of Cali-style personal realization in its part of the world—and what may get lost in translation. It's an intriguing subject, but while this exhibition expands on a previous project for the most recent Berlin Biennale, it still barely scrapes the surface.

The show's centerpiece is a sculpture of a mother and child performing Quantum-Touch therapy. They stand on a mound of sand inside a circular



running track, and their ritual is accompanied by a dreamy spoken narrative. According to the artists, such practices have

been adapted by the political elite in the Middle East for ideological ends. On the surrounding walls, flocked plastic reliefs reproduce online images of locally influential figures promoting "positive energy" as a basis for policy.

GCC's exhibition portrays how one culture can co-opt the value system of another in ways that skew the original meaning. It's a fascinating observation but one the group struggles to convey visually.

■ *MW*  
→ Mitchell-Innes & Nash, through Nov 26

## TIME OUT LOVES

Our top picks this week



### MARILYN MINTER

Minter warms up for her upcoming Brooklyn Museum retrospective with paintings derived from a photo portfolio of nudes, which *Playboy* rejected because it featured models showing bush.

→ Salon 94 Bowery, 243 Bowery (212-979-0001, salon94.com).  
Thu 27–Dec 22.

### SASCHA BRAUNIG

This show rounds up 20 of Braunig's figurative paintings from the past five years, all featuring the artist's crazy, if tasty, stylistic soup of Op Art-flavored Surrealism.

→ MoMA PS1, 22-25 Jackson Ave, Queens (718-784-2084, momaps1.org). Through Mar 5.

### KYLE BREITENBACH

Breitenbach borrows from outsider art with enigmatic pastels of blocklike forms that have a carceral vibe similar to what you'd find in the work of someone like Martín Ramírez. → Shrine, 191 Henry St (347-693-4979, shrine.nyc). Through Nov 13.

### AUSTĖ

The Lithuanian-American artist channels Florine Stettheimer through the folk-art motifs from her motherland in these images of sparkling, sylphlike female figures inhabiting some kind of netherworld.

→ Greenspon, 71 Morton St (212-255-7872, greenspongalleries.com).  
Through Dec 3.

PHOTOGRAPH: MARILYN MINTER, DEEP FROST, 2016, COURTESY SALON 94