

TWO COATS OF PAINT

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Guilty: Kicking off 2012 in Bushwick

10:07 AM  Sharon Butler

After spending most of December in Washington, DC, I was happy to be back in Bushwick on New Year's Day drinking mimosas at Jason Andrew's [Norte Maar](#), Deborah Brown's new gallery, [Storefront Bushwick](#), and Paul D'Agostino's [Centotto](#). Here are some images from "Guilty/(Not) Guilty," an excellent show curated by arts writer [Sarah Schmerler](#) at Norte Maar, featuring work by Ellen Letcher, Francesco Masci, Alfred Steiner, and Pablo Tauler. Look for images from the other shows later this week. Note: The text below is lifted from Schmerler's statement.

The exhibition introduces four New York-based, contemporary artists who paint, draw, and make conceptual projects in methods that both take for granted — and re-cast — what society considers as being good, reasonable (and therefore valid) reasons for making a work of art.



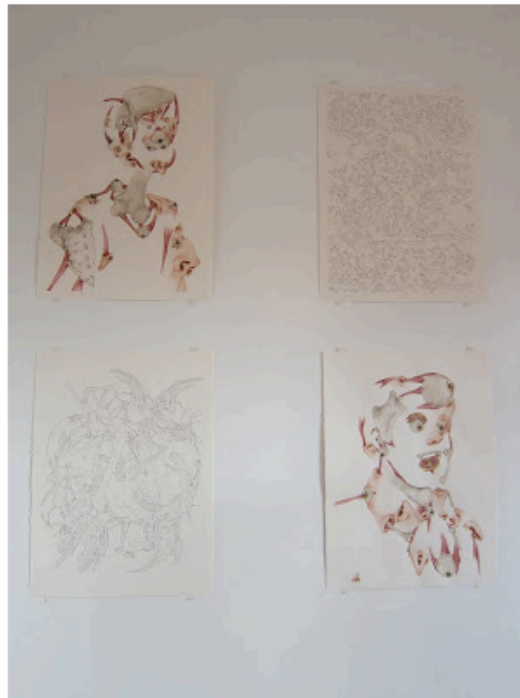
Ellen Letcher: uses paint, not to depict her own imagery, but rather as an adhesive for affixing photos of consumer-goods (and other disturbing content!) ripped from mass-produced magazines and newspapers. She also co-runs a gallery called Famous Accountants in Ridgewood, where she shows new work by local artists.



Francesco Masci: Google surfer, classically trained Italian painter. He's depicted (among other things) his girlfriend lying on a couch as a naked odalisque surrounded by raw meat; Twitter birds pooping on Charles Darwin's head, and other phantasmagorical subjects with the accuracy of an Archimboldo.



Alfred Steiner: a copyright lawyer by day, Steiner bought a painting at CANADA gallery on the Lower East Side by Allison Schulnik (top image), and had a replica of it fabricated with a 3-D printer. Both, now considered a single artwork, are in the show.



Pablo Tauler: a dreamy sort of guy who knows how to rock a ballpoint pen. Born in Chile (and into Pinochet's reign of terror), he had a tough time growing up as a teen in suburban Maryland. Now he transforms his memories into airy, luminous drawings.



Jason Andrew and Sarah Schmerler

"[Guilty / \(Not\) Guilty](#)," curated by Sarah Schmerler. Norte Maar, Brooklyn, NY. Through January 29, 2012. Additional artists are featured in the Project Room, including: Berlin-based [Paulius Nosokas](#) and L.I.C.-based [Wade Schaming](#).

Related posts:

[The James Kalm Report chats](#) with Sarah Schmerler during the opening reception. Schmerler talks about the artists' work and the important role instinct plays in curating. Watch it: it's excellent. (Don't miss the recent [NYTimes article](#) about Loren Munk, the guy behind The James Kalm Report.)



Must read: James Panero writes about the Bushwick arts community in his January [Gallery Chronicle](#) column in *The New Criterion*.