

DECEMBER 2011

BEST OF 2011

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ALEXI WORTH, "SHOW OF HANDS" (DC Moore Gallery, New York) In an art world where mediocre artists are routinely catapulted to superstardom only to disappear back into deserved obscurity-or, more exasperating, indefinitely escape the downward pull of gravity buoyed by an inflated commercial apparatus—it is as refreshing as it is remarkable to happen upon the work of a genuinely undersung talent. I loathe this sort of rhetoric but am happy to stoop so low to celebrate the six easel-size pictures Worth showed this past fall. His subtle play of shadow and substance, of represented image and abstract invention, makes one's head turn circles round how a given picture was made—and what it means to make one.



9. Above: Alexi Worth, Crumpled Drawing, 2011, acrylic on paper, 221/4 x 24".

Jack Bankowsky is a critic and curator and Artforum editor at large.