

ART IN REVIEW

'It's Always Summer on the Inside'

By ROBERTA SMITH

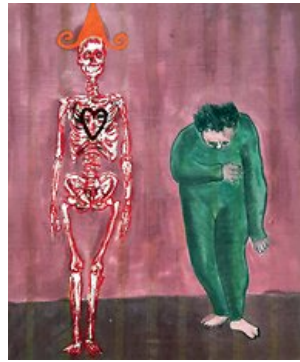
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Anton Kern Gallery

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532 West 20th Street, Chelsea

Through next Friday



Anton Kern Gallery

"Moment of Truth" (1980), by Robin Winters, part of the group exhibition "It's Always Summer on the Inside," at Anton Kern.

This initially odd, even unprepossessing group exhibition of stylistically disparate paintings and large drawings has been selected by the painter Dan McCarthy. He has lined up his selections in a single, rather tightly regimented row around the gallery's four walls, as if he had a big point to make and little room to spare. But, appealingly, his big point seems to be that there really isn't one when it comes to art, that all kinds of artists make all kinds of credible art and that they usually do so by following instinct more than anything else.

The works on hand back this up, ranging between figuration and abstraction, by various routes. Most date from the last decade, but there are a few from the 1990s and one is even earlier: Robin Winters's "Moment of Truth," from 1980, a vivid image of a red skeleton and an admirer before a washy magenta ground, which is holding up remarkably well.

There are exceptional pieces by almost all of the 20 artists represented, but especially Amy Sillman (new and angular); Rita Ackermann (older, with lots of ballpoint pen); Andreas Schulze (a fabric design run amok); and Jack Pierson (a wonderfully crude drawing of a woman's face).

The efforts of Philip Taaffe, Dan Walsh, Mary Heilmann, Keith Mayerson, Sean Landers, Miriam Cahn and Joyce Pensato also stand out.

It's very interesting to go around the gallery, thinking about the connections among the various works: the shifting role of drawing; echoes of subject matter or color; or weirdly specific repetitions, like the recurring arms or armlike forms in several works.

The show's title comes from a 1970s wet-suit advertisement. Even before you read Mr. McCarthy's short essay in the catalog, you may catch the phrase's suggestion of interiority — of the freewheeling mind and imagination as the main source of artistic inspiration. Beyond the varied and engaging ways these works converse with one another, each manages to add a further bit of resonance and rightness to the title.

A version of this review appeared in print on August 17, 2012, on page C28 of the New York edition with the headline: 'It's Always Summer on the Inside'.

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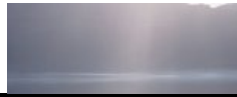
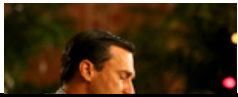
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