



## Social media addiction, a blood-soaked Salvator Mundi and more at the Spring Break Art Show

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4th March 2020 17:23 GMT







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The ninth edition of the curator-centred Spring Break Art Show in New York, on view through 9 March, presents more than 120 projects addressing the theme of "in excess". This year the show is fittingly located within the former Madison Avenue headquarters of the mainstream fashion retailer Ralph Lauren, where booths have been appropriated from remnant offices, cubicles and common spaces. The projects range from critiques on the commercial art world, our culture's insatiable consumerism, the interminable feed of social media, and glossier, lighter works that aesthetically epitomise the theme.

What really shines in this edition of the fair, however, is our excessive digital media fixation. Among the highlights of the fair is a presentation titled *Frenzy* by the Chilean artist Claudia Bitrain and curator Lauren Powell. Comprised of a series of acrylic paintings and videos made from frame-by-frame paintings that are based on viral videos of inebriated teenagers, the works consider our online habits and the paradoxical way we consume disturbing content as comedic entertainment.

"The images in these videos are super un-aestheticised—they're so poor, they're shared too many times, they don't even have good resolution and they're anonymous," Bitrain says. "Looking at something that is trash still-by-still is an excellent painting challenge: to take something totally anonymous and make it something poetic." The presentation complements the artist's other paintings of drunk teens that are currently included in a group show at Postmasters Gallery in Tribeca, also curated by Powell.