

At Skarstedt, Justin Adian Gives CPR to Zombie Abstraction

Blake Gopnik, Monday, October 5, 2015



Justin Adian, *Storm Front*, 2015. Courtesy of Skarstedt Gallery.

THE DAILY PIC (#1404):

Doing the rounds of Chelsea with some friends, we came across the paintings of Justin Adian, now showing at Skarstedt gallery. Without looking at the press release, we couldn't quite decide whether we were looking at brand-new work by a young hipster or brand-old work from a forgotten genius of post-Minimal, school-of-Halley painting, circa 1978. Then we learned that the pouffy pictures – they look like stretched vinyl but are in fact enamel on canvas – are the latest creations of Adian, who was born in Fort Worth, Texas, in 1976. “Winning” is the best word for them. Or maybe “irresistible”.

I guess pieces like "Storm Front", as today's Pic is titled, should qualify as zombie abstraction, except that they so clearly know they are undead, and revel in it. They aren't the zombies from *Night of the Living Dead XIII: Still Eating*; they're more like the goofy ones in *Shaun of the Dead* – nostalgic but also truly of our moment.

<https://news.artnet.com/art-world/skarstedt-justin-adian-gives-cpr-zombie-abstraction-337429>