

ART LTD. CRITIC'S PICKS: Houston

By, Nancy Zastudil



Anna Elise Johnson, *Armchair Diplomacy*, 2014, Archival digital prints, resin based adhesive, India Ink, spray paint, 13 3/4" x 21" x 4 1/2", Photo: courtesy THE MISSION

THE MISSION is proving to hold its own amongst its fellow 4411 Montrose resident galleries. This fall, the Houston branch of THE MISSION (a Chicago counterpart also exists) presents work from German-born, Colorado- raised emerging artist Anna Elise Johnson, current Core Fellow and former artist assistant to Julie Mehretu. Director Sarah Busch describes the exhibition as all new works from Johnson, including her free-standing acrylic block collages. The artist creates the pieces by pasting digital prints to layers of acrylic that she adheres with resin, creating a solid block form. The imagery of the prints is taken from news sources and historical databases. Johnson is interested in how power operates in such images and what role the images play in the normalization process. The result is a multidimensional, woven, colorful, gel-like abstraction of pivotal and/or popular historical moments and ideologies. As for how she translates this information into her artworks, Johnson explains, "as history repeats itself, so do its images." The exhibition, titled "Moments in the System," runs from September 5 - October 25, 2014.