

THE MEASURE

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ART 4 Art Exhibits You Need to See

Posted by [Paul D'Agostino](#) on Thu, May 8, 2014 at 2:21 PM

CIBELE VIEIRA: NEIGHBOR'S BACKYARD

Christopher Henry Gallery, 127 Elizabeth St., through May 25th

Visitors have used Vieira's wall-to-wall pitch of sod that both chromatically embellishes and visually soothes an otherwise quite disregardable gallery floor as a staging ground for frolicking, picnicking, resting and, in at least a couple instances, miniature golf, but the photographer's show is not all about the grass. Or perhaps it is just as much as it isn't. On the one hand, grasses of various forms of reality and artifice are, in large part, the subjects of her photographs—six exquisite prints in all, all of them readily recognizable, albeit a blade-width less than overt homages to Méret Oppenheim's *Le Déjeuner en fourrure*. Excusably or not, one feels encouraged to glimpse Vieira's texturally rich, definitively verdant pictures as a ruminant beast's visual feast, if not its cup of tea. On the other hand, Vieira's visions and material foundations of inorganic organica and unnatural natures—misplaced, mixed sorts, mixed sources—are also references to greater and lesser modes of mortality. So one might consider the show a paean to grass and its broader metaphorical pastures. Or a lush pastoral in praise of ranging greens. One might even consider the show overall—given that Vieira will be maintaining the gallery's 'lawn' by repainting it green every three days, and extending the show's underlying tenets of surrealism to certain extremes—a self-reflexively witty, winsome take on landscape painting. There are joys aplenty to be unearthed in this show that brings a backyard inside. Visit around tea time, perhaps, to most fittingly stir your mind. Or a bit earlier, basket in tow, to enact your own version of *Le Déjeuner sur l'herbe*.



Grass abounds in Vieira's show on the Lower East Side. Image courtesy Christopher Henry Gallery.