

Derosia

Theo Belci, Artforum, December 19, 2024

ARTFORUM

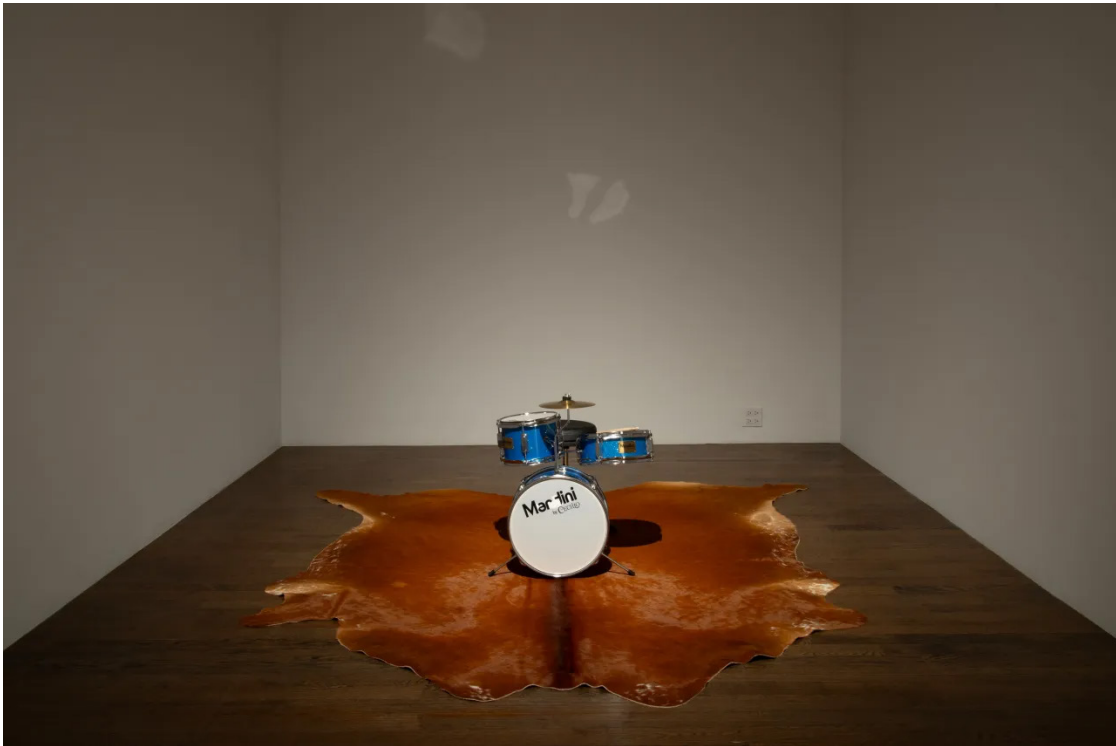
Best of 2024

Editors' Picks

Artforum staffers weigh in on the year's highlights

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Whitney Claflin, *Martini's Traum*



Whitney Claflin, *Martini's Traum*, 2024, enamel on drum set and cowhide rug. Installation view, Derosia, New York.

Whitney Claflin's beguiling junior drum kit was too perfect for this world, its balance of elegance and eccentricity too pronounced to escape the pit of the uncanny. If absinthe produced the lurid visions of Degas and Toulouse-Lautrec, this is a gin-induced migraine blur, a hallucination in the supply closet of a sleazy Midtown bar. Seeing the shine of the cowhide's luster under the spotlight and the neatly organized drumsticks on the snare, it felt like it had been set up for a performance I forgot I was supposed to give. I was terrified of its pull, its summons to be played. Thankfully, before I could take the stool a friend broke the mirage, pointing out a boisterous toddler in a nearby room as a prospective musician.