

MORGAN LEHMAN

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*the* PARIS REVIEW



Erotic City

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Aaron Wexler, *Erotic City*, 2014, acrylic painted paper and print material collaged on paper, 16.5" x 24".

Aaron Wexler's new solo show, "The Basket Looked Like an Ocean, And I Was Just Throwing Rocks In It," opens tomorrow at Morgan Lehman Gallery. Wexler's work uses elements of collage, printmaking, and painting; these new projects include everything from Audubon illustrations to found photographs of jungle gyms.

Shapes are everything in Wexler's work. He seems consumed by the moment when order becomes chaos, when geometry lapses into anarchy: even when his palette verges on the neon, his great subject is the tangle of nature. "I am in awe of nature every day," he told *BOMB* in 2010:

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I'm a city kid from West Philadelphia; nature is one giant mystery to me. I love the redwoods; I love scary looking tropical flowers; I love how weeds grow out of dirty bricks on nearly deserted streets. I love how innocently sexual nature is and how it surrounds us (if we're lucky and in the right places). Most of all though, I love how organic objects can seem so foreign, alien, and new—an endless source of forms and imagery.

As the name of his show suggests, Wexler has a knack for titles—his best summon a kind of hallucinogenic outlandishness, but you can always sense a raised middle finger hovering somewhere in the background. They sound like the best albums our rock luminaries never recorded: *The Love Life of a Leaf*, *Sure*, *After the Glitter Is Gone*, and—a personal favorite—*Erotic City*, after the Prince song. (When in doubt, always borrow from Prince.)



*abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz*, 2015, acrylic painted paper and print material collaged on paper, 90 x 80

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*Plotting Against Yellow*, 2014, acrylic painted paper and print material collaged on paper, 22" x 30".