

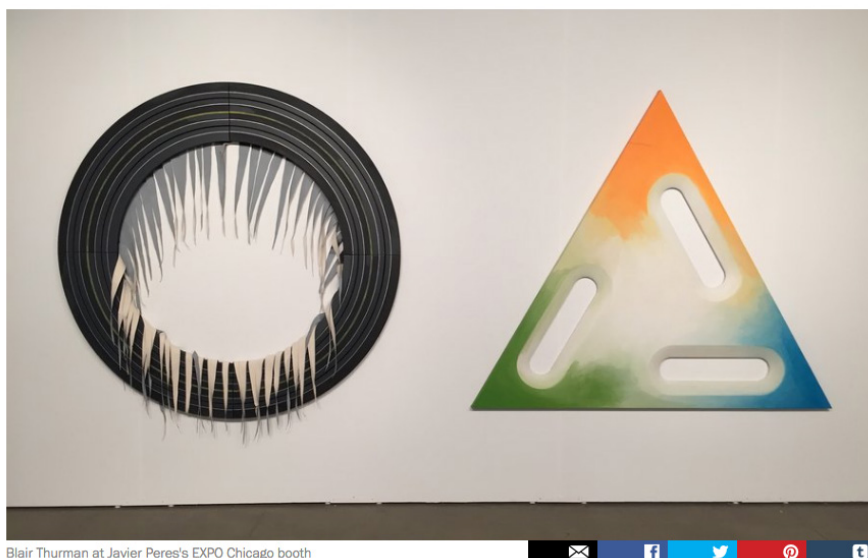
# Artspace

ART FAIRS

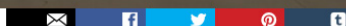
## 5 Artists to Discover at EXPO Chicago 2016

By Andrew M. Goldstein

SEPT. 23, 2016



Blair Thurman at Javier Peres's EXPO Chicago booth



### BLAIR THURMAN

Javier Peres (Berlin)



A New Orleans-born artist now in his fifth decade, Blair Thurman used to rumble through New York City's cool '90s art scene as part of a macho trio with [Steven Parrino](#) and [John Armleder](#), gaining some attention—mainly from Europeans—for his paintings that delighted in America's high-octane car culture. Riffing on wheels, racetracks, and automotive gear, the works were inspired by both California's Finish Fetish and the conceptualism of artists like [Sol LeWitt](#) and [Nam June Paik](#), who he knew from boyhood when they would hang out with his mom, a curator at the [ICA Boston](#).

In the years since, Parrino tragically died in a motorcycle accident, Armleder's career gained a second wind, and Thurman moved upstate to Hudson. Now he's enjoying a major resurgence as well. In 2014 he received a solo show at the Madison Avenue headquarters of the Gagosian empire (which works with the Parrino estate as well), and he's now also had solo outings in Paris (with Galerie Frank Elbaz), Berlin (with Peres), and London ([Almine Rech](#)). Karma also published a covetable monograph, and [earlier this year he acquired a church in Hudson](#) and turned it into a studio complex.

Now, at EXPO, Thurman has taken over Peres's entire booth, outfitting it with bright lights of the kind you find in a NASCAR spray booth so technicians can see every sculptural line and curve of the automobile. One could almost hear the revving motors. The works were priced at \$35,000 to \$60,000.