

ArtReview

Martin Herbert picks ten September 2015 shows you don't want to miss

in Lyon, New York, London, Basel, Los Angeles, Malmö, Vienna, San Francisco, Berlin and Glasgow

By Martin Herbert

I Hope to God You're Not As Dumb As You Make Out at Mary Mary, Glasgow, 26 September – 7 November

'I hope to god you're not as dumb as you make out' is, you will recognise, a line from Orange Juice's 1983 song Rip It Up. It's also the title of Mary Mary's three-person show, and since Matthew Brannon's in it, dumbness is unlikely. Here, Brannon's graphic luxe trappings, which devolve into deep lexical ambiguities, are joined by two complementary if lesser-known practices. LA-based Milano Chow's tight domestic drawings skew similarly to elegance and void, and suggest the classy obscurity of Alain Robbe-Grillet: mantelpieces framing empty space and accoutred with drawn postcards are a favoured format. Alan Reid, meanwhile, draws heiresses and fashionistas; his works have been described, entertainingly enough, as 'provocatively light'. You see where this is going. Restraint, decorum, low-watt angst, the discreet charm of the bourgeoisie, etc. It sounds, in its way, perfect.