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Our choice of New York contemporary galleries



Acharya Vyakul, untitled, 1997. Mixed media on paper.
At Lawrence Markey

Thus, the much-heralded hijinks of Damien Hirst (who shows new work at Gagosian this month) are thankfully balanced by a show like that of Acharya Vyakul at Lawrence Markey, Inc.

Vyakul managed to be entirely unknown for most of his working life, he lived in remotest India and was only really discovered by accident. Franck André Jamme first saw Vyakul's work in Jaipur. Vyakul, fifty-eight at the time, had long worked with whatever materials came to hand, and often using a hand rather than a brush. Thanks to Jamme, works by Vyakul were shown at the influential and much criticised mega-show "Magiciens de la Terre" at the Centre Pompidou in 1989, and he went on to be adopted improbably by the elegant agnès b. The show *chez* Markey, featuring more than twenty works on paper, should reaffirm the extraordinary sensuality of this lifelong oeuvre (a life that ended only in May of this year) and rescue him from any "outsider" tag.

by Adrian Dannatt