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Visit Alex Israel's Celebrity Talk Show, "As It LAYS," at Reena Spaulings Fine Art

APRIL 5, 2012



(http://www.facebook.com/sharer.php?u=http://blogs.artinfo.com/2012/04/05/visit-alex-israel-celebrity-talk-show-as-it-lays-at-reena-spaulings-fine-art/)

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Alex

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(<http://blogs.artinfo.com/artintheair/files/2012/04/asitlays-israel.jpg>).

Until Sunday the Lower East Side gallery **Reena Spaulings Fine Art**

(<http://www.reenaspaulings.com/>) is doubling as a makeshift soundstage for **Alex Israel's** parody talk show "As It LAYS (<http://www.youtube.com/user/Asitlays?feature=watch>)" (whose title references SoCal author **Joan Didion's** novel "Play It As It Lays") for which the Los Angeles-based artist interviewed some of that city's celebrities — including **Quincy Jones, Marilyn Manson, James Caan, Jamie Lee Curtis,** and **Christina Ricci** — in a hilarious, deadpan tone, asking them inane questions like "When you travel, do you take advantage of duty free shopping?" and "What are your

thoughts on marijuana?" Alongside the talk show set (pictured), a mock green room lets gallery visitors watch all of the hysterical exchanges from appropriately tacky couches.

The interviewees alternately seem earnest, confused, and a little exasperated when responding to the awkward questions, especially when Israel remains stone-faced after they deliver a zinger. Ricci, for instance, speeds through her interview (<http://youtu.be/4z79vSYJthw>), answering questions like "Mixing business and pleasure: a no-no, or not so bad?" with a few words.

Meanwhile Manson goes on wild tangents that sometimes suggest serious reflection and thought, but just as often veer into offensive platitudes. Asked "What do you like to do to pass time on a long flight?" the punk singer recalls a drunken journey to Estonia, a country he "didn't really believe existed because I'd never heard of it."

Israel has been posting the interviews on YouTube (<http://www.youtube.com/user/Asit-lays?feature=watch>) throughout the run of the exhibition, though there's a great deal to be said for watching them in the gallery. Here he is talking to a visibly irritated **Bret Easton Ellis**:

Alex Israel's "As It LAys" continues at [Reena Spaulings Fine Art \(http://www.reenaspaulings.com/\)](http://www.reenaspaulings.com/) through April 8.

— Benjamin Sutton



(<http://www.reenaspaulings.com/shows/shape/>?)

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Alex Israel (<http://blogs.artinfo.com/artintheair/tag/alex-israel/>)

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(<http://blogs.artinfo.com/artintheair/tag/benjamin-sutton/>)

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Christina Ricci

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Marilyn Manson

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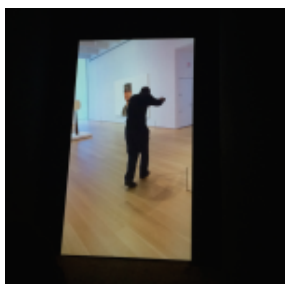
PREVIOUS POST

Massimiliano Gioni and Maurizio Cattelan Are Looking for a Family Business Blogger (<http://blogs.artinfo.com/artintheair/2012/04/05/massimiliano-gioni-and-maurizio-cattelan-are-looking-for-a-family-business-blogger/>)

NEXT POST

Rikrit Tiravanija to Make World's Biggest Soup (With the Help of Absolut) (<http://blogs.artinfo.com/artintheair/2012/04/05/rikrit-tiravanija-to-make-worlds-biggest-soup-with-the-help-of-absolut/>)

MORE ART IN THE AIR



Denver Museum to Welcome Armed Visitors

DECEMBER 31, 2015

(<http://blogs.artinfo.com/artintheair/2015/12/31/denver-museum-to-welcome-armed-visitors/>)



Louvre Abu Dhabi Construction on Track Despite Worker Death

DECEMBER 23, 2015

(<http://blogs.artinfo.com/artintheair/2015/12/23/louvre-abu-dhabi-construction-on-track-despite-worker-death/>)



BAMPFA Announce Expanded 2016 Film Program

DECEMBER 21, 2015

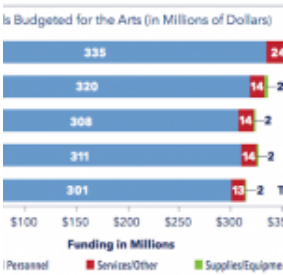
(<http://blogs.artinfo.com/artintheair/2015/12/21/bampfa-announce-expanded-2016-film-program/>)



Armory Show Names Ben Genocchio as New Director

DECEMBER 17, 2015

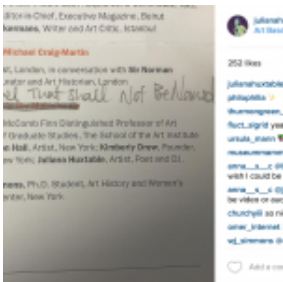
(<http://blogs.artinfo.com/artintheair/2015/12/17/armory-show-names-ben-genocchio-new-director/>)



Arts Instruction Grew in NYC Public Schools This Year

DECEMBER 16, 2015

(<http://blogs.artinfo.com/artintheair/2015/12/16/arts-instruction-grew-in-nyc-public-schools-this-year/>)



Quoted: David J. Getsy on Gender Expression and Abstraction

DECEMBER 16, 2015

(<http://blogs.artinfo.com/artintheair/2015/12/16/quoted-david-j-getsy-on-gender-expression-and-abstraction/>)



Top 6 European Gigs for January: Hozier and Corrs to Libertines

DECEMBER 31, 2015

(<http://blouinartinfo.com/news/story/1305595/top-6-european-gigs-for-january-hozier-and-corrs-to>)



What Did Artists Love In 2015? A Survey

DECEMBER 31, 2015

(<http://blouinartinfo.com/news/story/1303941/what-did-artists-love-in-2015-a-survey>)



Designer Spotlight: Clara Kasavina Goes from Computer Programmer to Handbag Designer for The Metropolitan Opera

DECEMBER 31, 2015

(<http://blouinartinfo.com/news/story/1305251/designer-spotlight-clara-kasavina-goes-from-computer>)



British Library to Digitize Major Atlas, Predicting the 2016 Art Market, and More

DECEMBER 31, 2015

(<http://blouinartinfo.com/news/story/1305470/british-library-to-digitize-major-atlas-predicting-the-2016>)

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18 exceptional new talents

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