

S/O/C/I/E/T/Y & C/U/L/T/U/R/E



CARY LEIBOWITZ INSTALLATION. IMAGES BY JKA PHOTOGRAPHY. MUSEUM SHOW ORGANIZED BY THE CONTEMPORARY JEWISH MUSEUM, SAN FRANCISCO

Artist Cary Leibowitz uses words as his secret weapons.

TEXTUAL HEALING Cary Leibowitz, who also goes by the name “Candyass,” has made a career out of crafting a nebbishy persona that is humorously self-loathing. His exhibit *Cary Leibowitz: Museum Show* includes his paintings “LOSER Line forms here,” and “don’t HATE me Because I’m Mediocre.” As a gay Jewish artist, Leibowitz specializes in self-consciously naive, text-heavy art, as well as objects with a twist (e.g., team pennants that read “GO SADNESS”). The comprehensive survey of his work runs through March 25 at the Institute of Contemporary Art (he’s also exhibiting work at Fleisher/Ollman Gallery through March) and proves just how clever and irreverent his shtick can be examining queer politics, pop culture and today’s art market. “There’s something wonderful about a longtime project that crosses contemporary art and kitsch and successfully lands with great gay Jewish humor,” says ICA director Amy Sadao. Leibowitz, reached by phone at his studio, says about the show, “If people let down their guard, there might be pieces they enjoy and some pieces they think are a waste. And that’s fine.” 118 S. 36th St., icaphila.org –Sarah Jordan