

Alexander and Bonin

"Exhibitions: The Lookout"
Art in America (January, 2014)

Art in America

INTERNATIONAL • REVIEW



John Ahearn
at Alexander and Bonin,
through Feb. 22
132 Tenth Ave.

This show of painted-plaster sculptures, "Works from Dawson Street and Walton Avenue," includes some of the best examples of John Ahearn's early efforts to capture and reflect the spirit of the South Bronx neighborhood where he lives and works. Produced in collaboration with artist Rigoberto Torres during the period 1981-91, these colorful life-cast portraits of friends and neighbors suggest scenes from some gritty urban soap-opera. Some of the works evoke the timeless quality of ancient Egyptian art, especially Fayum portraits, as Ahearn consistently projects the dignity and individuality of his subjects.