

David Ebony's Top 10 New York Gallery Shows for March



10. Jonathas de Andrade at Alexander and Bonin, through April 11.

Brazilian artist Jonathas de Andrade, 33, has gained significant attention in New York recently for his work included in "Under the Same Sun: Art from Latin America Today," at the Guggenheim Museum last year, and his appearance in the 2012 New Museum Triennial. In this, his debut solo exhibition in North America, de Andrade shows considerable promise. Here, he presents several new installations and a revamped version of *Posters for the Museum of Northeast Man*, which he introduced in the Guggenheim show. Based on theorist Gilberto Freyre's concept of "racial democracy," this interactive piece invites viewers to act as curators. Visitors can select pictures mounted on wood panels and hang them on supports attached to the gallery walls. These images of buff male laborers, accompanied by blocky, slogan-like texts in Portuguese, appear in the form of an advertising campaign.

The thread of homoeroticism in this work continues in several of the more recent installations featuring photos and text, which also have the feel of exhibits one might find in an anthropological museum. One outstanding photo piece, *Sugar Cane ABC*, shows a series of images of workers on a sugar plantation in Brazil forming letters of the alphabet with tall sugar cane stalks. Full of wit and humor, de Andrade's work draws on his Brazilian heritage while exploring ideas with potentially universal appeal.