

Artspace

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8 of the Best Artworks at EXPO Chicago 2014

By Andrew M. Goldstein

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The third edition of **EXPO Chicago**, the midwest culture hub's reincarnated art fair, returned to the city this week with a strong gallery roster, healthy attendance, and what seemed to be a newly vigorous sense of purpose. A common refrain among dealers—many of whom stoically stuck through the first two editions in hopes it would catch on—was that the fair had "turned a corner," with the heartland's hoped-for collectors, curators, and students showing up in force, and sales ringing up in both the middle and high ranges. Intriguingly, a number of dealers also brought work by artists that marked turning points in their careers, either by evolving previous processes or bringing attention to oeuvres too long unheralded.

JUDY LEGERWOOD
Always Already (2013)
[Rhona Hoffman Gallery](#)
\$25,000



A Chicago artist who teaches at Northwestern University, Judy Legerwood has for much of her career made paintings that play with a basic quatrefoil floral motif, laying them down in patterned rows or focusing on them solo to explore how the variations interact with architectural space. This canvas, from last year, constitutes a leap forward in her work through simply abstracting the flower shape into something more tenuously allusive, with melodic colors that emit copious visual energy. Another new direction in her work can be seen in EXPO Chicago's brochures, posters, and other marketing materials, which pulled imagery from another new body of the artist's work that she made when she was commissioned by a Florida tourism association to create a series of paintings based on [Robert Rauschenberg's](#) fabled art compound on Captiva.