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“Alive and Present” at Connersmith

By Louise Jacobs, April 11, 2014



Agniet Snoep, *Still Life Series: Prawn*, 2013, C-print mounted on aluminum, 24 x 36 inches, ed. 6
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It may be 2014, but in two new exhibits at Connersmith, one could be forgiven for thinking it's 1614. Two artists—painter Katie Miller and photographer Agniet Snoep—both bring a century-bending approach to high-realist art. Miller's oil paintings on wood panels feature detailed, eerie portraits of children posed as if they were baubled aristocrats of yore, but with such modern accoutrements as polo shirts, cotton candy, and electronic gadgetry. If Miller's works evoke the golden age of Dutch realist painting through the subtle inclusion of more modern elements, then Snoep's

(shown) use a more contemporary technique, photography, to suggest the same era through the timeless genre of still life. At Connersmith—Snoep’s first solo exhibition in the U.S.—the artist arranges vividly colored flowers, fruits, animals, and shells against a blankly evocative black background, a cabinet of natural wonders that offers a modern update on the enduring vanitas painting. *The exhibitions are on view Wednesdays through Saturdays, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., to May 31 at Connersmith, 1358 Florida Ave. NE. Free. (202) 588-8750. connersmith.us.com.*