

## 5 Highlights From D.C.'s Scrappy New (e)merge Art Fair

By ARTINFO

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Courtesy the artist and Jordan Faye Contemporary  
David Page's "Impeudence" at (e)merge

WASHINGTON, DC— The first edition of Washington, D.C.'s plucky **(e)merge** art fair opened with a burst of energy on Thursday night. Each gallery took over one or two rooms in the uber-collector **Rubell Family's Capital Skyline Hotel**, which made for difficult viewing, but some creative use of space. Below, find **ARTINFO's** top five favorites from the fair (listed in no particular order):

1. The abundance of performance pieces, including one at D.C.'s **Heiner Contemporary** in which the artist **Avery Lawrence**, wearing white shorts and shirt — almost like a tennis outfit — strides up an inclined treadmill with a tree stump strapped to his back. Also, at Baltimore's **Jordan Faye**, **David Page's** "Impeudence," a woman strapped into an elaborate full-body straitjacket in a wheelbarrow constructed by the artist.

2. **Vane** gallery, of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, UK, for **Michael Mulvihill's** extensive display of small graphite drawings, and **Flora Whiteley's** quietly exciting oil paintings.

3. New York's **Josee Bienvenu Gallery** for **Marti Cormand's** extraordinarily convincing trompe l'oeil paintings of cardboard boxes and for **Annabel Daou's** installation "from where, to where," which combines drawing and technology (sound systems in suitcases) exploring, through a single phrase ("where are you now"), the theme of cultural translation.

4. **Galerie Anita Beckers** of Frankfurt, for **Florian Heinke's** acrylics and collages, which put a dark spin on advertising and political posters.

5. **Aime Mpana** of the Congo and Belgium, whose carved wood portrait paintings, which literally excavate the face, were illuminated by flashlights passed out to viewers as they entered the darkened room of **Nomad Gallery**.