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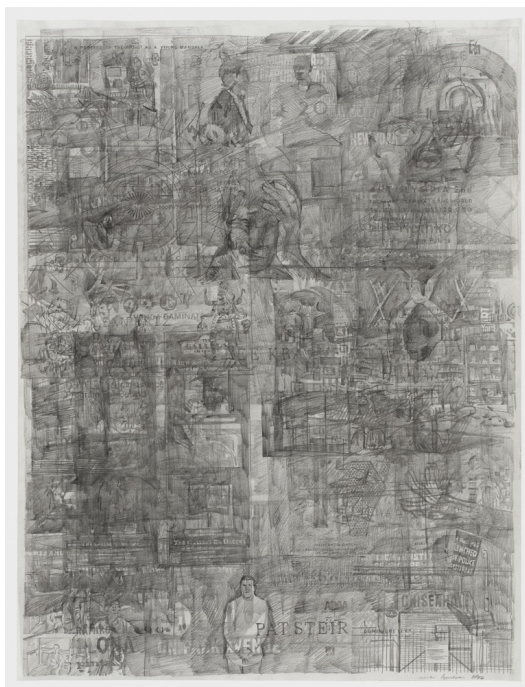
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ARTNEWS

Stacking Up to Holbein: Ciprian Muresan Makes an ARTnews Palimpsest

By Barbara MacAdam

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Ciprian Muresan, All Images from a December 2016 issue of ARTnews magazine, 2017, graphite on paper, 28 x 21 1/2 in., COURTESY THE ARTIST AND DAVID NOLAN GALLERY

We're so vain, how could we resist this painstakingly produced drawing of an entire issue of ARTnews all on one sheet of paper with each page of the magazine reproduced atop the last to create a dense palimpsest?

It is the work of the Romanian artist Ciprian Muresan, who said in an email:

The drawing is part of a series of five works, each taking as a starting point various art magazines issued in December 2016: ARTnews, Art Papers, Frieze, Art in America, and Afterall. All images reproduced in each magazine are rendered on a single sheet of paper in overlapping layers.

Accumulating and superimposing the images is a destructive act, at the same time preserving the 'identity' of the magazine. By choosing magazines issued at the same time, my intention was to provoke a sort of a comparison of accumulation – as you might compare the 'ashes' or the chaos created by superimposition.

Muresan, who will have work in the Venice Biennale's central exhibition next month, often tackles the subject of authenticity and reproduction, triggered by the fact that he had been introduced to art through reproductions, copying masterworks. The piece shown here is on view at David Nolan Gallery in Chelsea through May 6. We at ARTnews are excited to find ourselves hanging beside *Images from a Book on Holbein* (2017), an incomparably venerable and distinguished subject.