

Artspace

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EMERGING ARTISTS TO WATCH AT NADA AND UNTITLED 2014

Mika Tajima | Eleven Rivington | NADA



Mika Tajima is fascinated by ergonomics and the way that we are able to produce devices through industrial design that can condition our bodies both externally and internally. At NADA, the artist explored this theme in head-turning fashion, placing a full-sized candy-colored Jacuzzi shell on the wall. The Jacuzzi, it turns out, was not originally a leisure device intended to be used as an '80s party fixture but was instead developed by California's Candido Jacuzzi in 1948 as a tool to treat his son's rheumatoid arthritis. To make her piece (available for \$35,000), Tajima contacted the Jacuzzi company and requested that they make her a clear plastic version; she then turned that into a painting, spraying enamel on the surface—a technique she uses in her series of Plexi Glass paintings. Adding to the effect, the piece was displayed against the backdrop of wallpaper featuring serial depictions of a contortionist who has performed at her shows.