

ARTFORUM

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Best of 2011

Features

TOP TEN

By John Bankowsky

Editor at Large



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EMILY SUNDBLAD, "¡ QUE BARBARA!"

(Albus Greenspon, New York) You have to love this rising business-art star for monetizing her DIY identity by consigning her painting-as-exhibition-announcement to auction; and you have to hand it to the real jeune fille behind Reena Spaulings for landing in the pages of *W* as a pioneering downtown art dame; but most of all, one must give it up for the soulful songstress who opened and closed her show with a pair of intoxicating recitals. These evenings of unlikely hybrids ("Love Huts" set to a Schubert trio, anybody?) left her art smart audience with a burning question: Is Sundblad a musical phenomenon or an artist making work about one? The answer, improbably, is both.