



# ART BEAST

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## THE SKY, BROUGHT INDOORS

*Bleu Ciel* by veteran Belgian artist Michel Francois looks to be nothing more than wrinkled paper, but had a lovely, simple, wallflower presence in the Bortolami booth at a mini fair.

## The Art Fair Edition: The Sky, Brought Indoors

Michel Francois's heavenly art



*Sacre bleu! (Photo Blake Gopnik)*

A piece called "Bleu Ciel," by the veteran Belgian artist Michel Francois, little known in this country. It was on show in the Bortolami booth at the Independent, one of many mini-fairs that ride the coattails of the Armory Show.

So much of the art at these fairs heckles to get your attention, but this Francois – nothing more than some wrinkled background paper from a photographic studio – had a lovely, simple, wallflower presence. The title, of course, means "blue sky", and there was a sense that the piece had some of the poise and self-containment of a real natural phenomenon, and didn't care if we looked at it or not.

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