

FORT GANSEVOORT



Diary: Grimes hits the decks, the art of small business and Frieze LA hits the rocks (in a good way)

Plus Miss Ellie gets a makeover and gallerists move up a gear

By The Art Newspaper

February 15, 2020



Courtesy of the artist and Fort Gansevoort Zoya Cherkassky, *A First Grade Teacher* (2019)

A Soviet childhood, manga style

Last year the artist Zoya Cherkassky was stunned by the reaction to her New York show *Soviet Childhood*, which attracted a stream of foreign-born visitors who picked apart her memories of growing up among quintessential household objects in Kiev. Now she and the gallery Fort Gansevoort are wondering what kind of audience a Los Angeles sequel opening Saturday will attract. Among her favorite works in the LA iteration is *Le Déjeuner Sur L'Herbe*, a bucolic family

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gathering on the banks of a lake that she says was inspired by the works of André Derain. More surprising is *A First Grade Teacher*, in which the title figure sits at a table writing lesson plans while largely naked. “It’s an erotic fantasy of schoolchildren,” Cherkassky explained while giving a tour of her paintings blending Socialist Realist, early Modernist and manga styles. “Communicating is important to me,” adds the Israel-based artist, who blogs in Russian, Hebrew and English about her work. “I want to get through barriers.”