

OCULA REPORT

Armory Week 2017: The satellite fairs

[Robert Ayers](#) New York 9 March 2017



Beverly Buchanan, *_7 Houses_* (1997). Wood, acrylic, variable dimensions. Courtesy Edlin Gallery, New York.

If there were a prize for coolest show of the week, the people showing at Independent would undoubtedly regard it as theirs. Staged on four floors of the Spring Studios on Varick Street, it featured beautifully presented and sparsely hung booths with plenty of space around them. There was, however, a powerful atmosphere of exclusivity around many of the displays. Several dealers provided neither wall labels nor checklists, and perhaps did not realise how daunting the uninitiated might find this. Or perhaps they did. The best booth here was Andrew Edlin Gallery's solo show of the sculptures and drawings of Beverly Buchanan (1940-2015). Their subject is what she called 'shacks': the primitive buildings cobbled together as dwellings by impoverished African-American farm labourers in the southern states of America. She regarded these little things as portraits of the people who lived in such inadequate conditions, and this booth was one of the more telling to be found anywhere this Armory Week.