

THE
LIST

Andy Hope 1930: When Dinosaurs Become Modernists.....

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Investing trash aesthetic of golden age comic book iconography with a subverted mythology

Scary monsters and super-creeps abound in the Berlin-based artist formerly known as Andreas Hofer's first UK museum exhibition, which features five new works among an epic 41 on show. Seen side by side, there are moments when they resemble an outside pulp fiction collage of pop culture ephemera swirling around Hofer's brain, overlapping each other as they burst through the frame. Even the fact that Andy Hope 1930 has a secret identity speaks volumes about where he's coming from.

Because, drawing a line between [Roy Lichtenstein](#) and [Daniel Johnston](#), [Andy Hope 1930](#) takes the trash aesthetic of golden age comic book iconography and invests it with a subverted mythology born of the more questioning, me-generation years. So, against a [Zabriskie Point](#)-style landscape in 'Impressions d'Amérique', Batman and Robin are dressed as the Lone Ranger and Tonto, making the umbilical link between existentialist outlaw (super)heroes of old and new America as he goes.

The nod to French proto-surrealist [Raymond Roussel](#), who so influenced a generation of New York poets, is as knowing as the wonkified charity-shop [Kurt Schwitters](#) homage, the portrait of [John Baldessari](#) as Marvel Comics super-villain [Galactus](#), which comes complete with extra added Jesus, and the strip cartoon take of Linda Lee as Supergirl. Because, among the desolate landscapes that recall the early work of [Wim Wenders](#), another German fascinated with the Wild West reinvented as post-war counter-culture, Andy Hope 1930 needs heroes to call his own.

Of course, there are dinosaurs, be they larger than life and hidden behind wallpapered candy-stripes, or pocket-sized and contained, as they are in 'The Education Dinosaur Movie Hall'. This earth's core installation is a cardboard box peepshow into a [Ray Harryhausen](#)-style parallel universe where dinosaurs watch science fiction B-movies at the local drive-in. As evolution goes, it's a spaced oddity, for sure.

Inverleith House, Edinburgh, until Sun 13 Jan

More: [Visual art](#), [Reviews \(Visual art\)](#), [Andy Hope 1930](#)

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Date	Location
1 Nov 2012–27 Jan 2013 <i>Tue–Sun</i> 10am–5.30pm	Inverleith House, Edinburgh
The work of German artist Andy Hope 1930 reflects his long-standing interest in comic books, fantasy and science fiction, often using and reworking paintings found in charity shops. View full details	