

Blake Gopnik's 'Michael Rey's Imaginary Readymades',  
The Daily Pic, 1th May, 2014

## THE DAILY PIC

Blake Gopnik's Latest Sightings

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### Daily Pic: Michael Rey's Imaginary Readymades



This is one of the strange artworks by Michael Rey now on view at [Room East](#) gallery in New York. Rey calls them "ibjects" – hybrids, that is, between images and objects, and that makes sense. Their oil-painted surfaces give the sense that they are "of" extant things in the world, the way images are, but their peculiar, semi-industrial shapes suggest that they themselves have been pulled out of our normal object-world. You could call them "imaginary readymades" – real things you might want to present as art, if only they happened to exist. The idea that they are imaginary and contingent is reinforced by their extreme fragility: Their oil paint is applied on top of a soft and fleshy layer of plasticine! Time might make these ibjects disappear, only to be replaced by other such imaginings.

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