

ARTFORUM

JANUARY 2012

I N T E R N A T I O N A L

NORTH MIAMI

RITA ACKERMANN

MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART,
NORTH MIAMI • March 15–May 6 •
Curated by Bonnie Clearwater • “He
was able to compress a bulldozer and
Bambi into one song,” Rita Ackermann
once said admiringly of Michael Jackson.
“I want to show such a duality in its
most raw form—with a fragility that
triggers aggression.” Populating paint-
ings, drawings, and collages with her
own doe-eyed protagonists, Ackermann
repossesses feminine faces and bodies,
transforming the two-dimensional
surface itself into an exclusive club,
where words drown out and mute
glances are cast in exotic hues. In this,
the artist’s first major survey, more than
forty paintings and works on paper
made in the past two decades—from
iconic early line drawings such as *Get
a Job*, 1993, to more abstract, chaotic
assemblages such as *IN DA SHADE*,
2008—will be juxtaposed nonchron-
ologically. The show’s catalogue, devised
under Ackermann’s supervision and
published last fall by Rizzoli, features
texts by Clearwater, Felix Ensslin, John
Kelsey, and Josh Smith, as well as a
conversation between the artist and her
recent collaborator Harmony Korine.
—Kayla Guthrie