VULTURE.COM SEPTEMBER 19, 2017

THREE-SENTENCE REVIEWS: PETER SAUL'S FAKE NEWS, TREVOR PAGLEN'S ZOMBIE CONCEPTUALISM, AND 7 MORE SEPTEMBER SHOWS

by Jerry Saltz

Urs Fischer, Rotten Foundation Karma 188 E. 2nd Street

Karma, which never fails to challenge, here shows us a harrowing abstract image of America today in Rotten Foundation, made by the excellent Swiss artist Urs Fischer in 1998 when he was 25 (!), which has never been seen in the United States until now. The piece is as brutally simple as it is beautiful: a large, butterscotch-colored cinder block wall constructed atop a crazy "foundation" of real fruit and vegetables, which are rotting and home to new ecospheres of insect and mold life, causing the wall to tilt, crack, begin to collapse, and stink. Instantly you see what happens when foundations rot, when we try to build "a Wall" on a base of unsound ideas and the bad faith of something like an Empire committing unintentional suicide at the hands of Republicans, white nationalists, nativists, and people who say they are not racist but who always come off as more racist than they say.