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Be Good

By [Nirmala Nataraj](#)

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What kind of kid reads fairy tales anymore, when cautionary fables abound via the Internet and spectacles like *To Catch a Predator*? All the same, Kate Eric (an artist twosome, Kate Tedman and Eric Siemens) are a sort of Hieronymus Bosch for the tween set. They offer up a garden of monstrous delights (paintings, posters, and sculptural objects)

featuring the kind of age-old scary monster tropes recognizable to this very day, whether in a chat room or a Brothers Grimm tome. Kate Eric's current exhibition, "**Stories for Bad Children**," is full of the kind of spectral oddities and jackbooted apparitions that populate the nocturnal lives of freaked tots everywhere. The 16 paintings, which sport titles like *The Tongue of Terror* and *Failure of the Fathers*, range from outlining the oppressive prohibitions of the nuclear family to navigating the abysmal unknown. Giant anacondas, quivering intestinal tracts, furry placentas, monsters giving birth to rooster heads, and a medley of other hellhounds offer a visceral, almost sexual interpretation of fear and the hazards of growing up. Kate Eric reveal that while the bogeyman might have taken on a new form, he's still alive and well.

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