

Stephen Friedman Gallery

Wallpaper*

Art in a virtual reality: the platforms bringing exhibitions home

Harriet Lloyd-Smith

29 March 2020

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Having temporarily shuttered its brick-and-mortar spaces, the art world is adapting fast. For now, at least, our screens step in as gallery, studio and canvas. These are the digital initiatives satiating our art appetite with the real – yet unreal – deal.



Image: Louise Bourgeois in her home on West 20th Street, New York, 2000. Photography: © Jean-François Jaussaud © The Easton Foundation / Licensed by VAGA at Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York

'Dispatches' from Hauser & Wirth

Hauser & Wirth's all-digital initiative provides plentiful visual nourishment with a series of events and exhibitions that can be accessed entirely remotely. In 'From A Distance', Hauser & Wirth's roster of artists will share filmed messages and allow viewers a rare glimpse behind the curtain into their studios. The platform launched with Avery Singer's artist studio challenge, inviting budding creatives to share their own works in progress. Guillermo Kuitca will offer a tour of his home studio and drawings and new light is cast on late artists' bodies of work. The gallery's online exhibitions series kicks off with 'Louise Bourgeois: Works on Paper', a series compiled by Jerry Gorovoy, the artist's former studio assistant. Solo shows in the pipeline will include Phyllida Barlow, George Condo and Matthew Day Jackson. hauserwirth.com; [instagram/hauserwirth](https://www.instagram.com/hauserwirth)

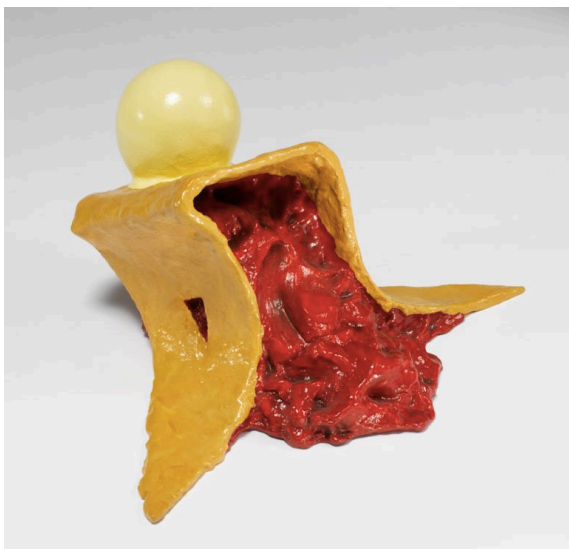


Image: Oldenburg/van Bruggen, Paradise Pies (II and VI) - VI, 5/6 Red, 2009. © 2020 Claes Oldenburg and Coosje van Bruggen

Pace Gallery's curated digital programme examines timely themes

After announcing temporary gallery closures, Pace has snapped back with vigour, opening up its online viewing tool for public consumption and unveiling a programme of digital exhibitions carefully compiled by Pace dealers and curators. The mix of group and solo shows delve into important contemporary themes including domesticity, the promise of a future world and human relationships, all supported by additional texts, audio and archival material.

As Pace's senior director and lead curator, Andria Hickey says, 'This is a time when people are seeking solace, and we believe art has the power to bring comfort and help us parse this difficult situation together.' Fresh exhibitions will be released at regular intervals and will be open online for a period of two weeks. On the horizon is a group exhibition, 'Material Matters', reflecting on the singular

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bond between artist and material – poignant in a time when the notion of tactility is at the forefront of the international conversation. Artworks include Lynda Benglis' recent ceramic creations and Oldenburg and Van Bruggen's seemingly tangible cast studies. pacegallery.com; [instagram/pacegallery](https://www.instagram.com/pacegallery)



Image: Lamya Gargash, Sahwa, BW Untitled, 2019. Courtesy of The Third Line

For Alserkal Art Week, the show must go on-line

The physical iteration of Alserkal Art Week, due to take place from 23 to 28 March in Dubai's Alserkal Avenue cultural quarter, was cancelled. But through the collective effort of the district's community of galleries, the resistant initiative didn't call it quits and instead transformed the event into a large-scale, immersive art spectacular. 17 galleries have restaged their offerings through interactive 360-view technology to keep a global audience captivated from the safety of their homes, alongside opportunities to meet the minds behind the art through custom video content and interviews. Notable highlights are dizzying geometric Op Art pieces by Mohamed Melehi and Shaikha Al Mazrou at Lawrie Shabibi and The Third Line's surreal and captivating presentation of photographic work by Lamya Gargash. alserkal.online; [instagram/alserkalavenue](https://www.instagram.com/alserkalavenue)



Installation view: Andreas Eriksson, 'Mapping Memories, Tracing Time', solo exhibition, Stephen Friedman Gallery, London (2020). Copyright Andreas Eriksson. Courtesy Stephen Friedman Gallery, London. Photography: Mark Blower

Stephen Friedman Gallery's digital walkthrough

At Stephen Friedman Gallery, two key exhibitions have found new life online. For Andreas Eriksson's 'Mapping Memories, Tracing Time', an immersive film narrates the artistic process of translating his paintings into new, large-scale tapestries, for which the artist collaborated with a team of Stockholm weavers. These works, described as 'existential landscapes', offer a unique window into the artist's rural surroundings in Medelplana, Sweden. Another new series, 'When snows fall', an installation of 95 ceramic candleholders, is inspired by celebrated Swedish designer Pia Törnell. The gallery will also launch an online viewing room for 'Latin America from 1950 to 2020: a personal journey', a group exhibition championing the glorious diversity of Latin American art which will correspond with Stephen Friedman Gallery's 25th anniversary. stephenfriedman.com; [instagram/stephenfriedmangallery](https://www.instagram.com/stephenfriedmangallery)

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Image: Claire Tabouret's Instagram takeover of @perrotin on 26 March

Perrotin gets #Unlocked

With its expansive library of virtual exhibition walkthroughs, documentary footage and podcasts, Perrotin has always been ahead of the curve on digital offerings. The gallery juggernaut is now ramping up its online presence with the #Unlocked series. A weekly Instagram takeover began last week with Claire Tabouret, who took us into her LA studio to preview a new body of paintings about siblings (which had to compete for attention with her five-month-old pitbull

mix, George); up next will be Gahee Park on 1 April. There's also a succinct Q&A series on IGTV with the likes of Bharti Kher and Daniel Arsham, but the most compelling initiative is no doubt their Pocket Playlist series, available on Spotify. Launched appropriately with Xavier Veilhan, whose French pavilion for the 2017 Venice Biennale took the form of a functional recording studio, it has an eclectic, laid-back mix ranging from German electronic music to Jamaican dub reggae, so your ears can travel the world while you're quarantined at home. perrotin.com; [instagram/galerieperrotin](https://www.instagram.com/galerieperrotin)



Image: Liu Ye, Catherine Deneuve, 2012. Acrylic on canvas, 60 x 45 cm. Private Collection, Beijing. Photography: Roberto Marossi; courtesy of Fondazione Prada Milano

Fondazione Prada looks inwards and outwards for its virtual presence

On the back of show postponements, the Milan institution has amped up its virtual presence, offering a visual lab of creativity to keep the inspiration flowing. Across platforms including Vimeo, Youtube, Facebook

and the website, Fondazione Prada is forming virtual exhibition experiences, opening up the archives, presenting video projects and more. 'Inner Views' takes a visual dive into three recently-opened exhibitions: 'Storytelling', by Chinese painter Liu Ye, 'K', a multi-platform exhibition inspired by three uncompleted Franz Kafka novels and 'The Porcelain Room', exploring the historical significance of Chinese-exported porcelain. Here, the institution thinks beyond the gallery experience, offering new interviews and videos encouraging intimate engagement with the exhibitions and the creative minds behind them. In 'Outer Views', the foundation transcends physical and virtual walls, documenting the curatorial contribution of Collezione Prada, including recent loans for major retrospectives of Donald Judd, Bruce Nauman and Richard Artschwager. fondazioneprada.org; [instagram/fondazioneprada](https://www.instagram.com/fondazioneprada)