

Stephen Friedman Gallery

AnOther

A List of Great Things to Do Before the Year Is Out

Daisy Woodward

1 December 2020

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Image: Kamonlak Sukchai, The Rebirth of Red Lotus from the series Red Lotus© Kamonlak Sukchai, courtesy of the artist

Our hand-picked recommendations of what to see, do and feast upon this festive season.

Exhibitions

Foam Talent | Amsterdam at Foam Fotografiemuseum Amsterdam: December 18, 2020 – March 10, 2021

Each year, Amsterdam's prestigious photography gallery Foam embarks upon "an international search for exceptionally talented photographers". The winners of the open call competition are offered the chance to showcase their work across various platforms, from Foam magazine to the travelling Foam Talent exhibition. This year, 19 image-makers have been selected, including the self-taught Thai artist Kamonlak Sukchai, a graduate in film production design with a flair for creating surreal and spectacularly arresting imagery. The exhibition arrives at Foam Amsterdam on December 18 and is also available to view online.



Image: Lynette Yiadom-Boakye, Tie the Temptress to the Trojan, 2018. Courtesy of Lynette Yiadom-Boakye

Lynette Yiadom-Boakye: Fly in League with the Night at Tate Britain: December 2, 2020 to May 9, 2021

Tate Britain's latest exhibition centres on the esteemed British artist and writer Lynette Yiadom-Boakye. The extensive show will bring together around 80 of her paintings, depicting fictitious figures conjured from her own imagination or inspired by found images, spanning 2003 to the present day. Yiadom-Boakye's artworks and their protagonists are endlessly enigmatic and engaging, each paired with a poetic title which heightens the air of intrigue. As the exhibition notes describe, "Her figures seem to exist outside of a specific time or place ... Both familiar and mysterious, they invite viewers to project their own interpretations, and raise important questions of identity and representation."

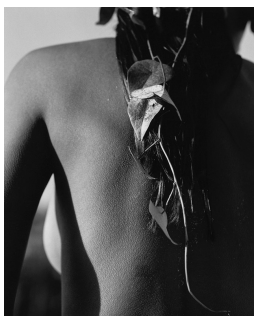


Image: Kurt Markus, Marla, Australia, 1990© Kurt Markus, Courtesy of Staley-Wise Gallery

Kurt Markus: A Life in Photography at Staley-Wise Gallery, New York: Until January 16, 2021

In New York, Staley-Wise Gallery celebrates the long and illustrious career of American photographer Kurt Markus, known for the distinct monochrome style he has applied to

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everything from lyrical landscape imagery to portraiture and fashion photography. A master of encapsulating his subjects' spirit on camera, the exhibition's highlights include a series of striking portraits captured in Savannah, Georgia for *Mirabella* magazine in 1994, Markus' captivating documentation of lithe boxing stars in Cuba and New York, and a number of beautiful nude studies paying homage to the work of Edward Weston.



Image: Installation view of Alex Prager: Farewell, Work Holiday Parties at Los Angeles County Museum of Art© Museum Associates/LACMA, Photography by Joshua White/JWPictures.com

Alex Prager: Farewell, Work Holiday Parties at LACMA, Los Angeles: Until January 3, 2021

Love them or hate them, office Christmas parties are an annual rite of passage – a last hurrah among colleagues before the festive break begins. This year, of course, most of us will have to forfeit this particular tradition, but a new sculptural installation by American artist Alex Prager at LACMA (and available for all to view online) has arrived just in time to fill the void. With the help of a 3D-printing facility and a Hollywood-based effects company, Prager has created a number of hauntingly realistic life-sized figurines, which she has placed in highly relatable office-party situations throughout the museum's entrance hall. The wonderfully realistic set-up is enhanced by pitch-perfect costumes, make-up, props, and sound, resulting in "a strange yet celebratory scene that can be experienced in the round."



Image: Lina Scheynius, Untitled (My Bed), 2020. Courtesy of the artist and Galerie Tanja Wagner

How to Human at Galerie Tanja Wagner, Berlin: Until February 13, 2021

Since its opening in 2010, Berlin's Galerie Tanja Wagner has devoted itself to "broadening visibility of art that challenges dated narratives, structures and hierarchies and offers a new vision and sensibility toward ourselves and society." Now, in celebration of its tenth anniversary, a group show from artists represented by the gallery – including Kipwani Kawanga, Šejla Kamberić, Grit Richter and Lina Scheynius – takes on the theme "how to human", exploring art's role as a tool for reflection, connection and making sense of the world around us. Medicine for the soul.



Image: Ruth van Beek, Untitled (Figure 67), 2020. Courtesy of The Ravestijn Gallery

Ruth van Beek: The Nursery at The Ravestijn Gallery, Amsterdam: Until January 16, 2021

Collage fans are sure to love the latest series of work from Dutch artist Ruth van Beek, on show at the Ravestijn Gallery in Amsterdam. Van Beek creates whimsical montages from images found in specialist books and magazines of the 50s, 60s and 70s, which she snips, folds and combines, inserting her own painted cut-out shapes into the equation to craft evocative new forms. This

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exhibition sees the artist pursue her interest in dolls, reconfiguring archive imagery of dolls and doll-making to create her own “nursery” of play objects, “stuck somewhere between reality and fantasy.”



Image: Farah Al Qasimi, Beige Bathroom, 2020. Courtesy of the artist and Helena Anrather, New York; The Third Line, Dubai

Infinite Identities: Photography in the Age of Sharing at Huis Marseille, Amsterdam: Until February 28, 2021

In a new exhibition at Huis Marseille, eight contemporary artists and photographers reveal the ways in which Instagram feeds into and furthers their practice. Through “tangible, autonomous museum installations”, the likes of Farah Al Qasimi, Coco Capitán and Martine Gutierrez demonstrate how Instagram has “added an extra dimension to their exploration of a range of subjects, including gender and identity”. While photographers including Thomas Lohr, Santi Palacios and Myriam Boulos dissect how Instagram Stories has allowed their followers to share in their experiences, and how this, in turn, has affected their artistic output.



Image: David Shrigley at In Real Life: Art Basel Miami Beach
Courtesy of Stephen Friedman Gallery

Miami Art Week, Miami and online: December 2-6, 2020

The IRL version of Art Basel Miami Beach has of course been cancelled this year, but a special online viewing room has been set up so that art lovers, collectors and industry insiders alike can still get their fill. Participating galleries will be showing a special digital curation of their works, including

Stephen Friedman Gallery, which is simultaneously presenting its Miami offering in its London space (viewable by appointment). Meanwhile, a plethora of art events will still take place in Miami this month. PRIZM Art Fair will present “47 artists and 14 galleries representing countries across the African continent, the Caribbean and Americas, with a film series and panel discussions exploring the intersections of contemporary art and global African film tradition”; while Maison Margiela are hosting a special outdoor presentation of Nude Descending a Staircase No. 3 by artist Marco Brambilla on the facade of its future flagship store in the Miami Design District (on view from December 3-5, from 7-10pm each night).



Image: Gauri Gill and Rajesh Vangad, Women and Men, 2019. Courtesy of the artists and Frith Street Gallery, London

Contemporary Excavations at Frith Street Gallery: December 3, 2020 – January 29, 2021

At London’s Frith Street Gallery, Contemporary Excavations explores “the mining of classical, modernist as well as Indigenous art histories and how these knowledge systems are appropriated, synthesised, and made new” in the work of artists Gauri Gill, James Nelson, Daniel Silver and Rajesh Vangad. Particularly attention-grabbing is the collaboration between

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photographer Gill, and Adivasi artist Vangad, who specialises in the ancient art of Warli drawing. Stemming from conversations during which Vangad shared with Gill the history, legends, and folklore of his hometown of Ganjad, their ongoing project Fields of Sight sees Vangad decorate Gill's images of the area with corresponding Warli forms – with hypnotic results.



Image: Patrick Eugene, You Ask About The Scars, 2020. Courtesy of the artist and Gallery 1957

Collective Reflections: Contemporary African and Diasporic Expressions of a New Vanguard at Gallery 1957, Accra: December 16, 2020 – January 17, 2021

“Responding to a year of individual and collective critical evaluations of universal humanity, particularly with regards to race, the artists on show – each from disparate backgrounds – reflect on representations of Blackness,” explains Accra’s Gallery 1957 of its latest exhibition, curated by Danny Dunson and featuring nine international artists working across a variety of media. Highlights include the compelling work of Patrick Eugène, who transposes photographs taken on the streets of Atlanta, Georgia into paintings that “evoke the abstractionism of ancient Africa and the vibrant colour palettes of Haiti”, and the spellbinding paintings of Nigerian artist Luke Agada, who draws influence from contemporary icons Yinka Shonibare and Kerry James Marshall, and surrealist pioneers Salvador Dalí and René Magritte.



Image: Alicja Kwade, All At Any Time, 2020. Courtesy of the artist and Acute Art

Unreal City: December 8 – January 5, 2021

This month marks the launch of Unreal City, the UK capital’s first group augmented reality exhibition. It comprises 36 virtual sculptures – by artists including Alicja Kwade, Olafur Eliasson, and Cao Fei – which are located at various sites along the Thames, and only become viewable through the lens of your smartphone. Download the Acute Art app now to take part in the fun.



Image: Cindy Sherman, Untitled #615, 2019 © Cindy Sherman, Courtesy of Sprüth Magers and Metro Pictures, New York

Cindy Sherman at Sprüth Magers, Berlin: Until 13 February 2021

Chameleonic artist Cindy Sherman continues her decades-long investigation into identity as a social construct in a new ten-part photo series, currently on display at Sprüth Magers, Berlin. In each work, Sherman adorns herself in eye-catching, gender-neutral menswear to embody a lively array of androgynous characters. Each figure strikes a theatrical pose against a vibrant, digitally manipulated background, composed from photographs the artist took while travelling in Bavaria, Shanghai and England. At every turn, Sherman highlights and challenges what the gallery terms “our innate desire to assign genders to those we encounter”, to playful yet powerful effect.