

Stephen Friedman Gallery

The New York Times
These are the art shows and events to see this season
Will Heinrich
17 September 2021

The New York Times

These are the art shows and events to see this season

From an enormous roundup of Black American portraits to a two-city retrospective of Jasper Johns, the new art season is buzzing again — and as busy as it ever was.



Image: Amy Sherald, “An Ocean Away,” 2020. Courtesy Amy Sherald, via Los Angeles County Museum of Art and Hauser & Wirth

After the pandemic brought museum and gallery shows to a dead stop, last year’s racial justice protests lent new urgency to demands that institutions become more transparent, more representative and more diverse. While there’s certainly an uptick of shows featuring women and artists of color in this fall preview, there are also many, delayed by Covid-19, that were planned several years ago. For the moment, at least, it feels as if we are picking up just where we left off — with solo blockbusters (like Jasper Johns’s, stretching over two cities), art fairs (nearly all in person, again) and ancient treasures (rare ceramics, from Thailand to Mesopotamia). Check museums and fairs for health-related updates: Museums may require proof of vaccination, and fairs may yet migrate back online.

September

The Obama Portraits Tour

Kehinde Wiley’s historically snappy portrait of our first Black president, along with Amy Sherald’s equally notable take on the former first lady, Michelle Obama, is on a cross-country tour, with stops in Chicago, Brooklyn, Los Angeles, Atlanta and Houston. (Aug. 27-Oct. 24; Brooklyn Museum)

Judy Chicago

Including pretty much everything but her single most famous work, “The Dinner Party” (it is permanently installed at the Brooklyn Museum), this first retrospective for the pioneering feminist touches on birth, death, gender and the Holocaust. (Aug. 28-Jan. 9, 2022; de Young Museum, San Francisco)

New Time: Art and Feminisms in the 21st Century

This huge survey of recent feminist art borrows its title from the poet Leslie Scalapino and includes eight thematic sections, with titles like “The Body in Pieces” and “Too Nice for Too Long.” (Aug. 28-Jan. 30, 2022; Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive, Berkeley, California)

Spain, 1000-1200: Art at the Frontiers of Faith

The Fuentidueña Chapel gallery at the Met Cloisters hosts objects from a time when multiculturalism meant Christians, Muslims and Jews mingling in Iberia. (Aug. 30-Jan. 30, 2022; Metropolitan Museum of Art)

Cauleen Smith: Pandemic

Stephen Friedman Gallery

The New York Times
These are the art shows and events to see this season
Will Heinrich
17 September 2021

An installation of drawings and videos by the California artist Cauleen Smith focuses on computer screens as the mediators of our collective experience. (Sept. 3-September 2022; Carnegie Museum of Art, Pittsburgh)



Image: Nellie Mae Rowe, “What It Is,” 1978–1982. Courtesy Estate of Nellie Mae Rowe/Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York; via High Museum of Art, Atlanta

Really Free: the Radical Art of Nelie Mae Rowe Drawing on the High Museum’s singular collection of work by Rowe (1900-82) — which includes chewing-gum sculptures, handmade dolls and a “playhouse” in her yard just outside Atlanta — this show is, according to the organizers, “the first to consider her practice as a radical act of self-expression and liberation in the post-civil-rights-era South.” (Sept. 3-Jan. 9, 2022; High Museum of Art, Atlanta)

Seeing the Invisible

A dozen botanical gardens in six countries have made a big bet on the drawing power of augmented-reality art installations, with the help of El Anatsui, Ai Weiwei and other headliners. (through August 2022; Jerusalem Botanical Gardens and others)

Unseen Picasso

Rarely seen etchings, lithographs and linocuts by the Spanish master. (Sept. 3-Jan. 10, 2022; Norton Simon Museum, Pasadena, California)

Joan Mitchell

Eighty canvases by a midcentury painter whose work vibrated with force and color. Organized with the Baltimore Museum of Art and also traveling to the Fondation Louis Vuitton in Paris, the show includes “Sans Neige,” a three-panel piece more than 16 feet long that hasn’t been shown since the 1970s. (Sept. 4 through Jan. 17, 2022; San Francisco Museum of Modern Art)

Layota Ruby Frazier: The Last Cruze

With photographs, video and installation, Frazier documents workers at the General Motors auto factory in Lordstown, Ohio, which closed in 2019. (Sept. 8-March 20, 2022; the California African American Museum, Los Angeles)



Image: Niki de Saint Phalle, “Madame, or Green Nana with Black Bag,” 1968. Courtesy Niki Charitable Art Foundation. All rights reserved/Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York/ADAGP, Paris. Photo by André Morain

Niki de Saint Phalle in the 1960s

De Saint Phalle’s moment continues with this show dedicated to her earliest “Tirs,” canvases she shot with a rifle, and her “Nanas,” the endearingly exaggerated female forms for which she’s best known. (Sept. 10-Jan. 23, 2022; the Menil Collection, Houston)

Christian Dior: Designer of Dreams

The North American premiere of a show that originated (naturally) in Paris has everything from his 1947 “New Look” to the present day, with photos, a “toile room,” more than 200 haute couture pieces and rooms devoted to all his successors as artistic directors. (Sept. 10-Feb. 22, 2022; Brooklyn Museum)

Stephen Friedman Gallery

The New York Times
These are the art shows and events to see this season
Will Heinrich
17 September 2021

On the Basis of Art: 150 Years of Women at Yale

Eva Hesse, Howardena Pindell, Sylvia Plimack Mangold, An-My Le, Mickalene Thomas and Audrey Flack are just a few of the Yale-trained female artists in this grand roundup, celebrating the 52nd anniversary of coeducation at Yale College and the 150th at the university's art school. Its title is partly derived from Title IX, the federal law barring any educational program receiving federal funds from discriminating "on the basis of sex." (Sept. 10-Jan. 9, 2022; Yale University Art Gallery, New Haven, Connecticut)

Rebel, Jester, Mystic, Poet: Contemporary Persians – the Mohammed Afkhami Collection

A survey of recent contemporary art from Iran and by Iranians. (Sept. 10-Jan. 16, 2022; Asia Society Museum)

Underground Modernist: E. McKnight Kauffer

An expansive look back at the influential early-20th-century graphic designer known as the poster king. (Sept. 10-April 10, 2022; Cooper Hewitt, Smithsonian Design Museum)

The Way We Remember: Fritz Koenig's Sphere, the Trauma of 9/11, and the Politics of Memory

Reflecting on public memorials, such as the spherical public sculpture that survived the collapse of the Twin Towers, on the 20th anniversary of the terrorist attacks. (Sept. 10-Nov. 14; Wallach Art Gallery, Columbia University)

Transformed: Objects Re-imagined by American Artists

This northern New Jersey museum has reopened with a show of 60 pieces, from the 19th century to the present, that evoke Jasper Johns's famous admonition: "Take an object. Do something to it. Do something else to it." (Sept. 23-Dec. 3, 2023; Montclair Art Museum, N.J.)



Image: Juan Gris, "Newspaper and Fruit Dish," 1916, at the Baltimore Museum of Art. Courtesy Yale University Art Gallery

Colour and Illusion: the Still Lives of Juan Gris

Tracking the Spanish Cubist's painterly style by isolating a single genre. (Sept. 12-Jan. 9, 2022; Baltimore Museum of Art)

Pioplotti Rist: Big Heartedness, Be My Neighbour

Videos, sculptures and colorful installations in this restlessly inventive Swiss artist's first West Coast survey. (Sept. 12-June 6, 2022; the Geffen Contemporary at MOCA, Los Angeles)

Bosco Sodi: La Fuerza del Destino

Working between New York and Oaxaca, Mexico, Sodi makes large clay spheres and rectangles whose textures you can almost feel just by looking at them. You can see about 30 in the sculpture garden. (Sept. 14-July 10, 2022; Dallas Museum of Art)

Fluxus Means Change: Jean Brown's Avant-Garde Archive

An influential collection of Dada, Surrealist and Fluxus art. (Sept. 14-Jan. 2, 2022; the Getty Center)

More Life

A multisite exploration of the lingering echoes of the AIDS crisis, with work by Derek Jarman, Mark Morrisroe and others. (Sept. 14-Oct. 23; David Zwirner Gallery)

Stephen Friedman Gallery

The New York Times
These are the art shows and events to see this season
Will Heinrich
17 September 2021

The Great George: Gruikshank and London's Graphic Humourists from the Collection of Lea Iselin

A chronological romp through the life and work of the 19th-century London illustrator known for his pointed political cartoons, his book illustrations and his bitter falling-out with his friend and former collaborator, Charles Dickens. (Sept. 20-Nov. 13; the Grolier Club)

Hard, Soft, and All Lit Up With Nowhere to Go

The Greek design studio Objects of Common Interest has installed retrofuturist lights, furniture and sculpture — much of it tubular — amid the museum's permanent collection of work by the sculptor Isamu Noguchi. (Sept. 15-Feb. 13, 2022; Noguchi Museum)

Sun & Sea

Singers in bathing suits and 25 tons of sand recreate an over-the-top operatic performance, by Rugile Barzdziukaite, Vaiva Grainyte and Lina Lapelyte, that won the Venice Biennale's 2019 Golden Lion. (Sept. 15-26, Brooklyn Academy of Music; travels Oct. 14-16 to the Geffen Contemporary at MOCA, Los Angeles)

Diane Severin Nguyen: If Revolution is a Sickness

Nguyen's first solo institutional exhibition features a newly commissioned video that follows a Vietnamese child into Poland's K-pop-inspired dance subculture. (Sept. 16-Dec. 13; SculptureCenter)

There is a Woman in Every Colour: Black Women in Art

Historical depictions of Black women in conversation with works by female Black artists from Elizabeth Catlett to Nyeema Morgan. (Sept. 16-Jan. 30, 2022; Bowdoin College Museum of Art, Brunswick, Maine)

In America: A Lexicon of Fashion

Part 1 of a major two-part exploration of American fashion. (Sept. 18-Sept. 5, 2022; Metropolitan Museum of Art)

Collecting Dreams: Odilon Redon

A newly acquired charcoal drawing is this year's excuse to celebrate Cleveland's unusually fine collection of works by this dreamy French Post-Impressionist. (Sept. 19-Jan. 23, 2022; Cleveland Museum of Art)

THINKING OF YOU. I MEAN ME. I MEAN YOU

The pre-eminently incisive text artist Barbara Kruger remixes, reconsiders and re-airs work from throughout her career in a show so huge it spills out of the museum into adjacent public spaces. (Sept. 19-Jan. 24, 2022; Art Institute of Chicago)

Inward: reflections on Interiority

Five young artists using the most extroverted of mediums, photography, for self-reflection. (Sept. 24-Jan. 10, 2022, International Center of Photography)

Majolica Mania: Transatlantic Poetry in England and the United States, 1850-1915

Victorian majolica pottery was brightly colored, durable and extremely popular, and this is its first major exhibition in decades. (Sept. 24-Jan. 2, 2022; Bard Graduate Center)

The Polonsky Exhibition of the New York Public Library's Treasures

The astonishing range of historical documents, art and objects in this new permanent installation includes an original copy of the Bill of Rights, an unpublished chapter of "The Autobiography of Malcolm X" in manuscript and the only surviving copy of a "Wish you were here!" letter from Christopher Columbus to King Ferdinand. (Opening Sept. 24; New York Public Library)

Stephen Friedman Gallery

The New York Times
These are the art shows and events to see this season
Will Heinrich
17 September 2021



Image: One Hundred Cranes Imperial Robe, Chinese (1644–1911). Courtesy The Nelson Gallery Foundation; Photo by Gabe Hopkins

Weaving Splendor: Treasures of Asian Textiles

Rare costumes and luxury textiles from Persia, India, China and Japan are exposed to the light of a public exhibition space for the first time in decades. (Sept. 25-March 6, 2022; Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, Kansas City, Missouri)

Year of Uncertainty

Public conversations and presentations, along with reinstallations of its archive and collection, draw visitors into a process of rethinking the Queens Museum's role. This ongoing project is led by six artists in residence, nine community partners and a dozen other activists, artists and writers. (Sept. 25-Aug. 2023; Queens Museum)

Woody de Othello: Hope Omens

Idiosyncratic, oversize ceramics at the country's premier collector of immersive environments. (Sept. 26-Sept. 25, 2022; John Michael Kohler Arts Center, Sheboygan, Wisconsin)

Suzanne Valadon: Model, Painter, Rebel

Born into poverty in Montmartre, Suzanne Valadon modeled for Renoir and Toulouse-Lautrec before becoming a successful painter herself, specializing in vibrant, colorful female nudes. (Sept. 26-Jan. 9, 2022; Barnes Foundation, Philadelphia)

Jasper Johns: Mind/Mirror

This enormous retrospective of a highly influential American painter is taking place in two parts that are on view in New York and Philadelphia simultaneously. (Sept. 29-Feb. 13, 2022; Whitney Museum of American Art, whitney.org, and Philadelphia Museum of Art)