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Art & Exhibitions

Artists to Watch This Month: 10 Solo Gallery Exhibitions to See In New York Before the End of the Year

TM Davy, Diamond Stingily, Dan Lam, Mondongo, and more.

Annikka Olsen, December 11, 2023

Whether you are just returning to the city from Miami or simply wanting to see what's on in the city before the holidays, we've rounded up 10 solo exhibitions that are not to be missed before the end of the year. And though the weather may have turned cold, the art scene is hot in New York City.

From an artist mining the "cat lady" cliché through ceramics to a fiber artist pushing the boundaries of their medium to a painter imagining a vivid fantasy world populated by fairies, these 10 artists span the dynamic landscape of art-making today.

Brendan Fernandes, "Within Reach" **Susan Inglett Gallery, through January 27**



Brendan Fernandes. Photo: Michael Salisbury. Courtesy of the artist and Susan Inglett Gallery.

Brendan Fernandes is the subject of his first solo exhibition with Susan Inglett Gallery, "Within Reach," comprised of a series of sculptures as well as a program of activations performed by contemporary dancers. Fernandes's sculptures are inspired by West African headrests, functionally made to preserve complex hairstyles while the wearer sleeps, but with deep-rooted cultural and spiritual importance, with the belief that these objects can promote dreams or prevent nightmares.

Meanwhile, the artist's choreography juxtaposed with the artworks results in a hybrid dialogue between African and Western artistic practices and presents a complex critique of colonialism and insight into the Fernandes's own personal identity. (The next performance is scheduled for Saturday, January 20, 2024.)

Also on view in the exhibition are works from the "As One" photography project undertaken by Fernandes in 2015. Originally initiated as part of a commission for the Seattle Art Museum, and later expanded upon using the Cravens Collection at the UB Art Galleries, within the context of the performed dances, the work further interrogates the colonial legacies of the West.