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Review of The Art Show 2019 at Park Avenue Armory

By Will Heinrich Feb. 27, 2019

The best thing about the Art Show, the annual fair sponsored by the Art Dealers Association of America in the Park Avenue Armory, is that ticket sales benefit the Henry Street Settlement, which has been bringing art and culture to the Lower East Side since 1893. The second best thing is that all 72 exhibitors are in a single room, albeit a large and drafty one: You can take it all in with a leisurely stroll.

Here are some especially notable booths.

BOOTH A9 Susan Inglett Gallery



William Villalongo's "Zero Gravity 2" (2018) features decorative slivers cut into velour paper. Villalongo Studio LLC and Susan Inglett Gallery

The fair's most stunning display is at Susan Inglett Gallery, where four large paper cuttings by William Villalongo, a Brooklyn-based artist working in painting, printmaking and installation, neatly fill the booth's gray walls. Each features a storm of decorative slivers cut into black velour paper. Accented with collaged-in photos of jewels and African sculptures, or painted arms and legs, these storms become ingenious summations of black American identity: They're bodies composed of innumerable traumas that somehow hold together — and even look good.