What to See in N.Y.C. Galleries Right Now



Feb. 2, 2022

Want to see new art this weekend? Start in Chelsea with Etel Adnan's drawing-like paintings and Kristin Oppenheim's immersive art. Then head to NoHo for spectral canvases by Thomas Sills. And don't miss "Feminism and the Legacy of Surrealism," which covers art works from the 1970s to the present, as well as "Cosmic Geometries," which takes inspiration from tarot cards.

MIDTOWN

'Cosmic Geometries'

Through Feb. 26. EFA Project Space, 323 West 39th Street, second floor, Manhattan. 212-563-5855 x244; projectspace-efanyc.org.



Image: From left, the four larger, centered works are Diana Guerrero-Maciá's "Night Watch" (2020); Barbara Takenaga's "Floater (Revised)" (2013–15); Marilyn Lerner's "Queen Bee" (2020); and Rico Gatson's "Untitled (Double Sun/Sonhouse)" (2021). Credit: Yann Chashanovski, via EFA Project Space

The Swedish artist <u>Hilma af Klint</u> was as much a pioneer of abstraction as a mystic. So, in 2020, when the artists <u>Sharmistha Ray</u> and <u>Dannielle Tegeder</u> formed a collective devoted to artwork by women, nonbinary, and trans people interested in spirituality, they named it after her.

<u>Hilma's Ghost</u>'s first big project was creating a set of tarot cards. Now the duo has curated "<u>Cosmic Geometries</u>," which expands on the deck, by continuing its exploration of connections between abstraction and mysticism. Aided by Sarah Potter, a witch, Ray and Tegeder used tarot as a guide for laying out the show. For each of the 25 artists, they pulled a card that's displayed alongside the work.

Even if, like me, you don't know much about tarot, you can appreciate its apparent curatorial powers. "March '94" (1994), a bold and radiant canvas by <u>Biren De</u>, hangs next to <u>Jackie Tileston</u>'s painting "14. Muon Seance Aftermath" (2021), which evokes unseen forces in a quieter, more hermetic way. With their playful dances of color and shape, <u>Marilyn Lerner</u>'s "Queen Bee" (2020) and <u>Rico Gatson</u>'s "Untitled (Double Sun/Sonhouse)" (2021) look like a ready-made pair. <u>Barbara Takenaga</u>'s transcendent painting "Floater (Revised)" (2013—15) is unique, yet I felt echoes of it in the vibratory rhinestones of <u>Evie Falci</u>'s "Thalia" (2016).

It's exhilarating to see a knockout exhibition that celebrates abstraction's spiritual searching. These works are rooted in culture and form, but reminders, too, that when it comes to art, we're often seeking something deeper. *JILLIAN STEINHAUER*

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