

These Are the Buzziest Artists Discovered at New York Art Week

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Mary Lai, *Crossing Thresholds (Triptych 1)*, 2024. Credit: Courtesy Nina Kong-Surtees

With The Armory Show celebrating its 30th anniversary over the past week, New York was buzzing with artists, critics, curators, and collectors seeing all the art there was to see. Looking beyond the Javits Center, where the Armory took place, Galerie spotted several standout artists—emerging, established, and rediscoveries—at the city’s lively satellite fairs. From Independent 20th Century’s focus on art made in earlier times to NADA House and the SPRING/BREAK Art Show, where you could find tomorrow’s art stars, we’ve rounded up the buzziest artists from NYC’s alternative art fairs.

Susana Wald, *El Sueño del Geómetra (The Geometrician’s Dream)*, 1982. Photo: Courtesy the artist, Marisa Newman Projects and Galerie Michael Janssen.

Independent 20th Century

Returning for its third edition in New York and online, Independent 20th Century presented a select group of invited galleries championing artists from the international avant-garde movements between 1900 and 2000. Located in the historic Battery Maritime Building in Lower Manhattan, this year’s fair highlighted women artists, Black, and Indigenous artists from the Americas and beyond, and work from the 1990s. Standout presentations included Susana Wald’s surreal portraits of women turned into objects related to their male partner’s trades at the shared booth of Galerie Michael Janssen and Marisa Newman Projects; Almine Rech’s solo showcase of paintings and works on paper by CoBrA cofounder Karel Appel; figurative works by self-taught Ukrainian artist Janet Sobel paired with Sol LeWitt’s conceptual abstractions at James Barron Art; and Zero Group cofounder Heinz Mack’s rarely exhibited ceramics at Beck & Eggeling International Fine Art’s collaboration with the Mack Foundation.

Sebastien Leon Agneessens, *And I Fail To Remember Why We Came*, 2023. Photo: Courtesy Bienvenu Steinberg & C.

NADA House

Back on Governors Island for its sixth edition, NADA House is a collaborative exhibition that brings together 17 exhibitors presenting 21 artists, with participants engaging the unique character of a 19th-century former military residence and delivering work in a diverse range of mediums. On view through October 27 in Nolan Park, highlights include Sebastien Leon Agneessens' sound sculpture and works on paper generated through an automatic drawing process made famous by the Paris Surrealists presented by Bienvenu Steinberg & C; Kumkum Fernando's futuristic figures charting an intergalactic journey to reach a loved one exhibited by Jonathan LeVine Projects; and Massey Klein Gallery's survey of sculptures by Canadian artist Jude Griebel exploring concerns of planetary collapse.

Man Ray, *Dada Group*, 1921:22. Photo: Man Ray Trust/ADAGP-Paris/ARS-USA, 2000. Courtesy Spanierman Modern.

Art on Paper

Returning to Lower Manhattan's Pier 36 for its 10th edition, Art on Paper featured galleries showcasing modern and contemporary paper-based art, alongside installations and events highlighting the creative potential of paper, curated by Nato Thompson. Standout presentations at this year's fair were Spanierman Modern's vintage photographs by Surrealist master Man Ray; CHIAOZZA's playful paper pulp paintings and sculptures at VSOP Projects; and Tomato Mouse's solo exhibition of carved paper-works of interiors from Renaissance masterpieces by Anna Gregor. In its second year, the Artist Book Fair—a fair within a fair—featured institutions showcasing works of art that utilized the book as a form.

Mary Lai, *Crossing Thresholds (Triptych 1)*, 2024. Photo: Courtesy Nina Kong-Surtees.

SPRING/BREAK Art Show

In a new location, the lucky 13th NYC edition of SPRING/BREAK Art Show featured more than 100 curatorial exhibitions, special projects, and a new section Artist Spotlight section in the former offices of a book-binding business in Lower Manhattan. Highlights included Mary Lai's graphic paintings of dreamlike scenarios, curated by Nina Kong-Surtees; Rachel Gisela Cohen's shapely paintings layered with sparkly cutout fabrics in an immersive three-person show organized by Cohen and Abby Cheney; Peter Gynd's beautifully brushed still lifes and landscape paintings, presented by Jody MacDonald; along with Erik Hanson's room full of action paintings of Popeye and Bluto battling it out on canvas and Amy Hill's Old Master-style portraits of birds dressed in classical attire, with both exhibitions curated by SPRING/BREAK founders Ambre Kelly + Andrew Gori as part of the Artist Spotlight series.

Megan Bogonovich, 2024-18. Photo: Courtesy Kishka Gallery.

VOLTA

The 16th edition of VOLTA New York at Chelsea Industrial, featuring 45 exhibitors from 18 countries, included a platform for underrepresented voices in the market and a Ukrainian Pavilion with artworks presented by galleries from Kyiv, Lviv, and New York. Paintings of religious icons rendered on discarded wooden ammunition boxes by Sofia Atlantova were presented by Black & White Project Space, while Dymchuk Gallery offered images of people escaping into the wild by the artist duo Synchrodogs. Megan Bogonovich's surreal ceramic sculptures, paired with self-taught artist June Gutman's psychological studies at Kishka Gallery and Library, and Adam Sorensen's visionary landscapes at PDX Contemporary Art, were amongst our favorite works of the week.