

## David Ebony's NYC Autumn TOP 10

David Ebony

October 1, 2020

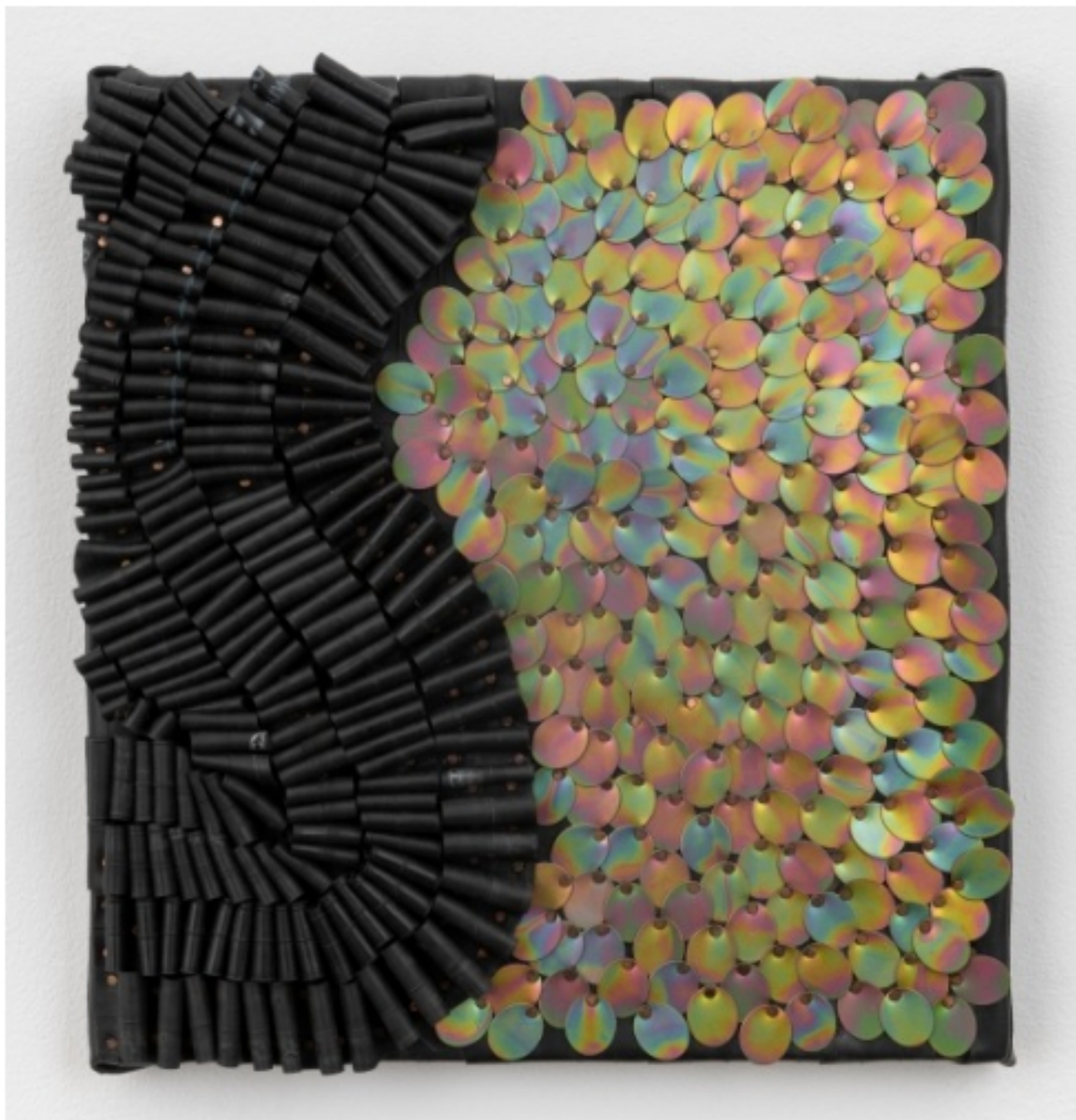
David Ebony



Alyson Shotz, *The Small Clocks Run Wild*, installation view, 2020, *Intricate Metamorphosis* (2020) in foreground, *Chronometer* series on the wall. Photo courtesy Derek Eller Gallery.

### 7.) Alyson Shotz at [Derek Eller Gallery](#) through October 10.

With an undergrad background in geology, New York artist Alyson Shotz has a longstanding fascination with experimental materials, ecological processes, and the effects of gravity over time. The element of time is central to *The Small Clocks Run Wild*, a gorgeous show of recent sculptures, wall-hung reliefs, and an installation. Suspended from the ceiling with wires, *Intricate Metamorphosis* is a grouping of five elongated pod-like shapes made of mesh formed by countless, interlocking metal disks. The elusive organic forms recall freshly molted snakeskins. Created using an electroplating process, the iridescent surfaces of the disks shimmer and shift in tonality as viewers move among the sculptures, changing incrementally with time.



Alyson Shotz, *Untitled*, 2020, recycled rubber bicycle inner tubes, plated carbon steel, copper nails, wood, 12 1/4 x 11 1/2 x 1 1/2 inches (31.1 x 29.2 x 3.8 cm).

Photo courtesy Derek Eller Gallery.

Shotz borrowed the exhibition title from a line in a poem by Stanley Kunitz, contemplating his own mortality while observing salmon swimming upstream. "The great clock of your life is slowing down, and the small clocks run wild," Kunitz wrote. The tone of the poem suits the mood of the show, which is meditative and rather melancholy. A glimmer of optimism arises, however, in the dazzling surfaces of each work, and the overall luminous atmosphere of the exhibition. In the large reliefs of the "Chronometer" series (2020), and smaller untitled works, Shotz creates a sense of graceful movement, with swirling passages of gathered and compressed strips of used bicycle tires playing counterpoint to the shimmering electroplated disks. Like memento mori dedicated to the victims of the pandemic or of social injustice, some of these meditative pieces successfully echo the emotional reverie of Byzantine icons. •