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ART

At Independent Art Fair, Young Artists Explore Heritage, Identity and Healing

Open to the public today, Independent Art Fair's 13th edition in New York brought together over 65 exhibitors in a snapshot of contemporary art today.

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POSTED

May 6, 2022

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New York's first ever Art Week (<https://www.newyorkartweek.info/>) is in full swing. Run and tourist art aficionados as four major art fairs and over 20 museums, galleries and programs. Opening to the public today, Independent Art Fair returned to Spring Studios of over 65 emerging and mid-sized exhibitors. While it's expected of galleries to put the Independent felt innovative and diverse—a snapshot of some of the most exciting tale

Heritage and Identity

This year, many exhibitors chose to bring works by young and emerging artists exploring identity, in both figural and abstract forms. In Nicola Vassell (<https://www.culturedmagazine.com/2022/09/14/nicola-vassell-and-ming-smith-celebrate-gallery-opening>)'s booth, three large, colorful, and intoxicating energy. Born in Somalia, Uman grew up in Kenya and Denmark before moving to New York. Her works, with their fluid and compositions that toe the line of figuration and abstraction, her works explore this fluidity and spirituality.

Nearby, moniquemeloche presents a solo booth of portraits of Black figures by Harlem. Her works are made of rich textiles, paint and ink with mixed elements like wood, photographic prints and glass. Her works that rethink the history of classical portraiture as a tool to represent the elite. Her works reference the neighborhood in Harlem, as well as references to art history to portray Black archetypes.

Reframing traditional systems and American life is Devin N. Morris, whose mixed media booth. Through dream-like scenes in assemblaged frames, Morris explores themes of sexual identity, in particular male interactions and the experience of being both Black

Healing Through Art

While much of the art from the last two years touched on themes of isolation, healing welcome departure from the predominately two-dimensional works of other booths, D mixed media sculpture by Michelle Segre. Standing over 10 feet tall, *Orbit of the Hagg* giant dream catcher, the work relates to Segre's interest in art as a means to connect, woven structure is a large, rock-like ball painted in a vibrant, almost electrified blue.

Another highlight of the fair is Nicelle Beauchene Gallery's presentation of mixed-media alongside a cotton and corduroy quilt by Carey George of Alabama's historic Gee's Bend have been making quilts for generations and recently earned the attention of the blue-

Wirth's dedicated show (<https://www.culturedmag.com/article/2022/04/01/as-the-world-turning-inwards>) earlier this spring.



vanessa german. Photography courtesy of Kasmin Gallery and Ind

At Clearing, Marguerite Humeau explores the medicinal qualities of plants with an elegant flower. Part of her series "Energy Flows," the work relates to the ancient Doctrine of Signatures and the effect they have on humans. Humeau's poppy rests like a sleeping head with seeds.

Artist, poet, and activist vanessa german is no stranger to art as a form of personal and social challenge the effects of historic and current injustices, racism and sexism. In her work she presents small, figural sculptures made of miscellaneous found objects and materials.



Creative Growth. Photography courtesy of Creative Growth and Independent

An Art Fair That Gives Back

After a tumultuous two years for people around the globe, a spirit of charity also pervades art fairs. Many nonprofit booths selling lower cost artworks to fundraise give-back efforts. RxART, an art fair for contemporary art's biggest names to bring art into hospitals, is presenting works by Lo

Ancart. The booth also features a playful, pink installation by Nicolas Party that connects to the Children's Hospital Los Angeles.

Raising funds for The Coalition for the Homeless, Artware Editions presents its Artist Series featuring the likes of Joel Mesler and Carmen Herrera on dishes. Across the mezzanine, Creative Arts Center, with developmental disabilities, displayed a selection of vibrant, abstract works by Nicole Storm. Storm's practice has a performative element stemming from her process of creating the dishes, but rather as she moves about her daily life.

While art fairs are notorious for exhausting visitors, Independent was refreshing and in-depth, challenging histories and invited the viewer to ask questions other than, "Is this available?"

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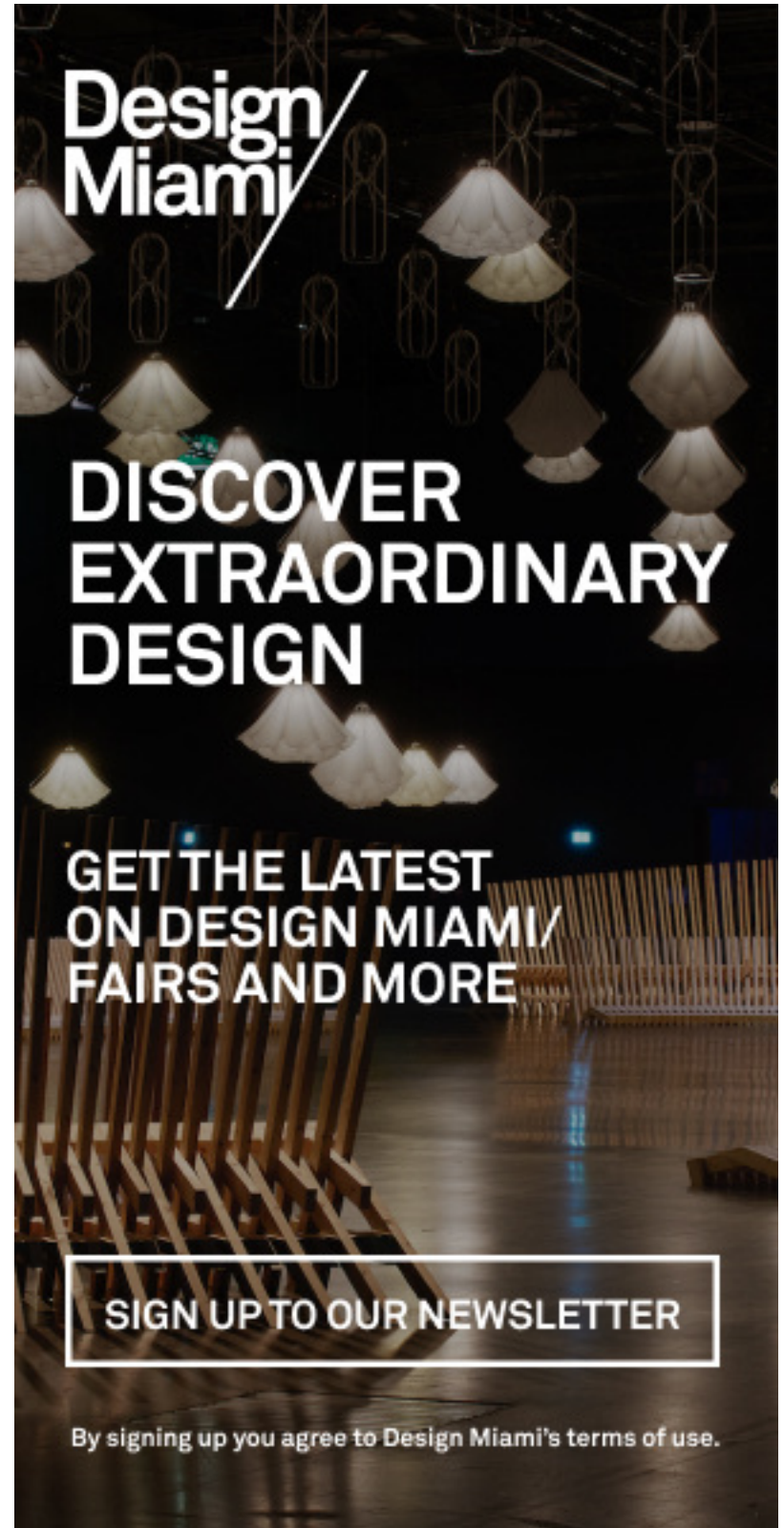
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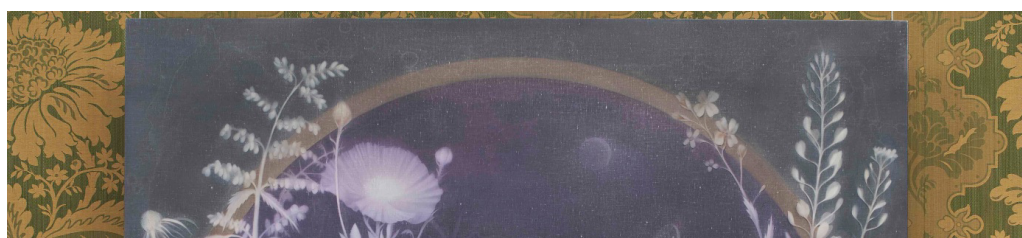


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The Six Best Solo Presentations at Frieze New York 2022

Jacoba Urist

(</article/2022/05/17/the-six-best-solo-booths-at-frieze-new-york-2022>)





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With Botanicals and Celestial Bodies, Theodora Allen Examines Our Scientific Journey

Pia Singh

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At Jeffrey Deitch, Sasha Gordon Reveals Her Honest Self

Rachel Elizabeth Cargle

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