

Art

## 8 Art Shows to See in New York City This May

Vibrant colors and fantastical creatures are in abundance in shows by Sanam Khatibi, Julia Bland, Claude Lawrence, Annette Wehrhahn, and others.



Hrag Vartanian, Hakim Bishara, Valentina Di Liscia, Daniel Larkin and Natalie Haddad May 1, 2024

Maybe it's something in the springtime air — all the new growth and wild nature — but fantastical landscapes and creatures seem abundant in galleries this month. While Sanam Khatibi's uncanny scenes feel like memento mori transplanted to a land between life and death and Joy Curtis's strange anatomies reimagine life as we know it, Hell Gette's brightly colored worlds combine art history with a Saturday morning cartoon aesthetic.

Meanwhile, Rebecca Goyette and Florencia Escudero delve into technicolor imaginations as Julia Bland, Claude Lawrence, and Annette Wehrhahn saturate the gallery spaces with the soaring colors of their abstract works. — *Natalie Haddad, Reviews Editor*



Julia Bland, "Vision on the Water" (2022), linen, canvas, dress, pants, upholstery fabric, fabric dye, oil paint (photo Hakim Bishara/*Hyperallergic*)

**Julia Bland: *Rivers on the Inside***

Something is always happening between the seams of Julia Bland's woven textile paintings: a child is born, a friend is lost, a vermilion sun sinks below the horizon, its rays glistening over a rolling river. These are expressions of life's ups and downs, ebbs and flows, stitched together into lovesome, comforting wall tapestries. Some of my favorite pieces are airy, lightly threaded compositions that reveal the wall behind and give the eye some breathing space. I recommend this show, especially for those in urgent need of some tenderness and healing. — *Hakim Bishara*

Derek Eller Gallery ([derekeller.com](http://derekeller.com))

300 Broome Street, Lower East Side, Manhattan

Through May 25

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