

10 NYC Art Shows to See in December



Natalie Haddad, Hrag Vartanian, Hakim Bishara, AX Mina and Sebastián Meltz-Collazo December 4, 2024

Jiha Moon: Fool's Moon

Derek Eller Gallery, 38 Walker Street, Ground Floor, Tribeca, Manhattan Through December 21



Works by Jiha Moon, including “What Happens When We Die?” (2024), which features a question to actor Keanu Reeves on the other side that reads, “Keanu What Happens When We Die?,” on display at Derek Eller Gallery (photo Hrag Vartanian/Hyperallergic)

Bananas appear frequently in this one-person exhibition in Tribeca, and while Moon suggests it as a metaphor to navigate Asian American, particularly second-generation, identity, the zeitgeistiness of the very peelable fruit is not lost on the viewer. While Maurizio Cattelan may have leaned into the comedy of the banana in his obscenely expensive prank, Moon enjoys the more slippery aspect of the fruit that is often evoked when Asian Americans slide into good ol’ American assimilation politics. There’s one line in her press release that continues to bring me joy whenever I reread it: “I reference the Korean drag queen Kimchi and Keanu Reeves, whose life quotes resonate deeply with me, borrowing their voices to tell my story.” I can imagine no more apt way to encapsulate her aesthetic universe in a sentence. —HV