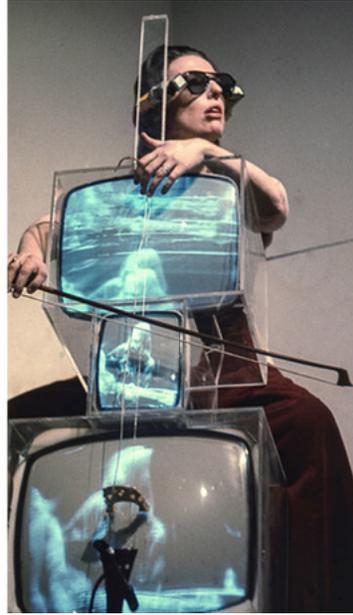


ARTSY



The 15 New York Gallery Shows You Need to See This September

ARTSY EDITORIAL

SEP 1ST, 2016 10:33 PM

For the New York art world, the first sign of fall isn't turning leaves or freshly sharpened pencils, but rather an evening of gallery-goers overflowing onto Chelsea sidewalks, hopping from opening to opening. In advance of a promising new season of gallery shows—including fresh young artists, rich art-historical narratives, and smart fusions of art and technology—we've parsed through the deluge of new shows opening this month to share the 15 we're itching to see the most.

Joan Semmel at Alexander Gray Associates

SEP. 8–OCT. 15, 510 WEST 26 STREET



Installation view of “Joan Semmel: New Work” at Alexander Gray Associates, 2016. Photo courtesy of Alexander Gray Associates.

In the early '70s in New York, amid the roiling atmosphere of the Vietnam War, Civil Rights, and the Women's Liberation Movement, Semmel was inspired to halt her abstract painting practice in favor of figuration. Beginning with powerful, sexually explicit paintings in deep jewel tones, she soon turned to herself as subject and muse, using her own body to explore female identity—which has been a focus of her painting practice ever since. Semmel has seen something of a resurgence in recent years, including a solo show at the Bronx Museum of the Arts in 2013, inclusions in group shows at the Museum of Modern Art and the National Portrait Gallery D.C. in 2014, and as a prominent figure in “Black Sheep Feminism: The Art of Sexual Politics” earlier this year at Dallas Contemporary. Always a realist, Semmel now presents a show of new nude self-portraits, including nine paintings that picture her torso and limbs, often overlaid with line contours that further emphasize her form. The works fiercely face the subject of aging, acknowledging the lengths to which our society goes to avoid it.