

Top 10 for Visual Art in Chicago: Big shows, big messages in the first months of 2022

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As museums carry on showing pandemic holdovers too good to cancel, the embarrassment of riches continues. So many great shows, so little space to mention them all!

“A Site of Struggle: American Art against Anti-Black Violence”: Violence toward people of color has a history longer than, and grotesquely tied to, that of the United States. The Block surveys the past hundred years of it, as represented through artistic protest and memorialization. Lynching imagery is omnipresent — depicted by an early Isamu Noguchi sculpture, implied in Lorna Simpson’s 1989 photo-text about necklines, abstracted in welded steel reliefs that Melvin Edwards made in 1990, erased in images Ken Gonzales-Day recreated in 2006 — and no exception in a show of art as hard to look at as it is important to do so. *Jan. 26 to July 10 at Block Museum of Art, 40 Arts Circle Drive, Evanston, 847-491-4000 and www.blockmuseum.northwestern.edu*