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TO SEE NOW

By CATE MCQUAID



FOR DECADES, Boston was a backwater when it came to contemporary art. Now, however, some local museums are beefing up their collections of 21st-century works and others are staging more ambitious exhibits. What makes art contemporary? It's not simply a matter of timing. Today's art reflects today's society. Here are 10 of the best new works on view in these parts this summer.

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BY STEVE LOCKE
"YOU DON'T DESERVE ME"
EXHIBITION AT
SAMSON GALLERY, BOSTON
THROUGH JULY 21
samsonprojects.com

Locke, a Boston artist, examines the complexity of desire, painting men who respond to the viewer's gaze, often by sticking their tongues out. Now he raises the stakes, entering a new realm: Placing his paintings on poles, the artist marries painting with sculpture and installation. That ratchets up the perceived response of his subjects to the viewer. And vice versa.

