

15 Art Exhibits Worth Exploring This Fall

By Pamela Reynolds September 27, 2021

We're entering that cozy time of year when we trade in backyard barbecues and outdoor concerts for indoor restaurants, movie theaters and museums. Normally, it's all so...hygge, as the Danes would say. This year, however, the snug conviviality of indoor life has been supplanted by anxiety. Will venturing into crowded public venues set off new COVID surges? Time will tell, but until then, we know one thing: when we step indoors this fall, we want it to be worth it.

With that in mind, here's a look ahead to the most promising offerings of the fall season. The exhibits chosen differ in themes and media. Most of them are at museums and almost all will be running into next year, which gives you plenty of time to catch them should COVID-19 restrictions lead to temporary pauses. What's on tap in Boston and in surrounding towns is varied enough that almost everyone can find at least one intriguing exhibit. And the bravest among us can catch them all.

'Steve Locke: Homage to the Auction Block'

Boston University Art Galleries, Stone Gallery

Oct. 1-Oct. 27

Steve Locke also explores ideas of color, but in a wholly different context. Using modernist forms and color theory, Locke explores questions around race, comparing the modernist form of the block to the slave auction block. "The use of the 'auction block' motif literally organizes these modernist relations around the central symbol of chattel slavery in the Americas," Locke has said of his work. "The work reframes the work of modernism around the shape that made it possible." Running concurrently with Josef Albers' "Formulation: Articulation," Locke's series both celebrates and subverts Albers' legendary "Homage to the Square" series, providing an entirely new context in which to consider iconic and familiar works.