

## Art

# Five Shows to See in New York City Right Now

Nick Cave leaves behind his Soundsuits, Ericka Beckman reimagines a fairy tale, American Artist explores the sci-fi world of Octavia E. Butler, and more.



Natalie Haddad, Hrag Vartanian, Lisa Yin Zhang, Alexandra M. Thomas and Jasmine Weber  
18 hours ago



Installation view of seating area in *American Artist: Shaper of God* at Pioneer Works, Brooklyn (photo courtesy Pioneer Works)

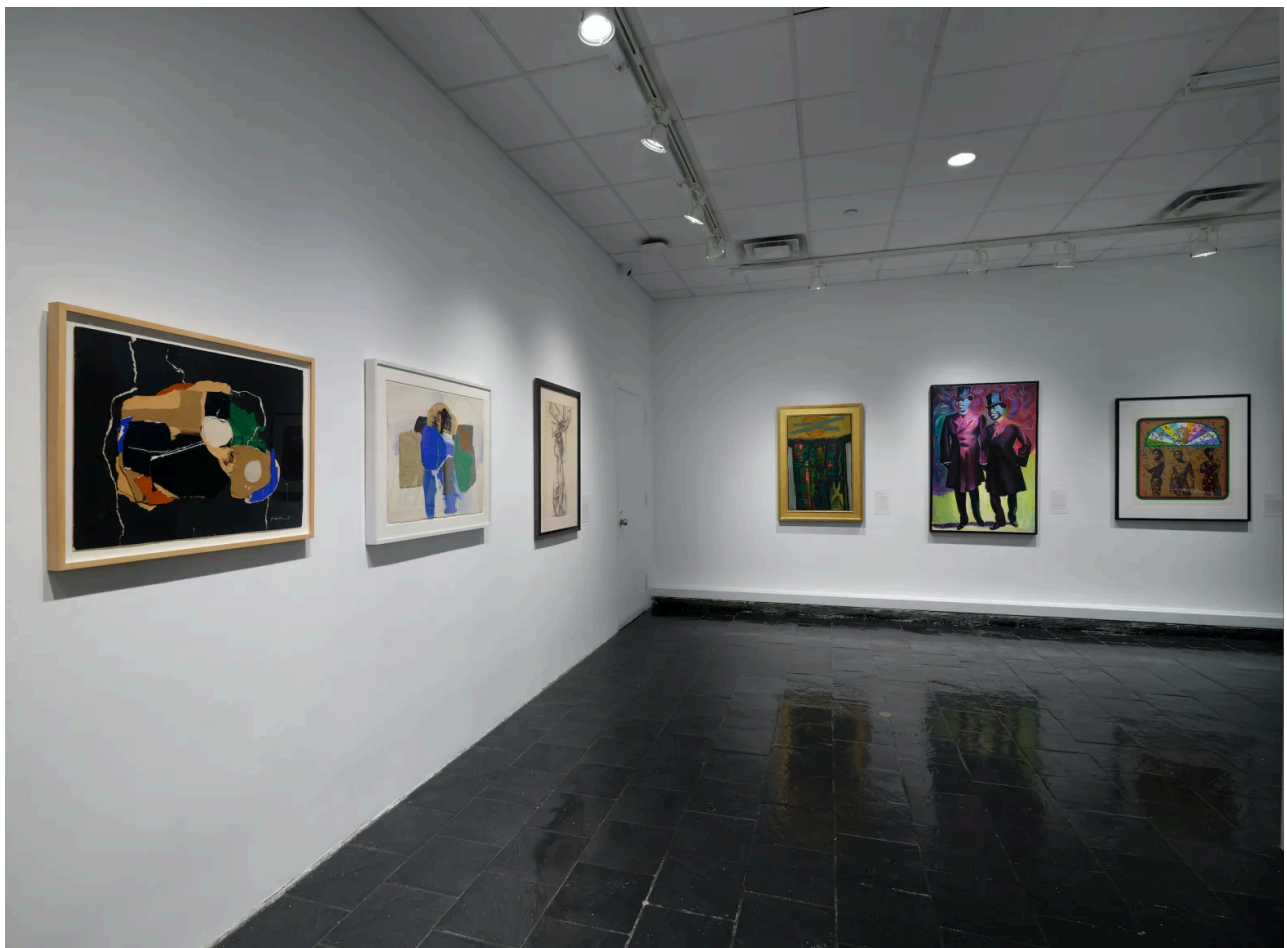
This is a week of big statements by artists and expanded possibilities by curators and gallerists, past and present. If you haven't already made the trip to Pioneer Works in Brooklyn's Red Hook neighborhood to see American Artist's exploration of author Octavia E. Butler, we highly recommend it. Multimedia artist Nick Cave's new work makes some pretty grand statements as

well, while a survey of the 1960s Black-owned and focused gallery Acts of Art and a Hilton Als-curated show on the limits of language and silence provide plenty of food for thought. And filmmaker Ericka Beckman’s solo presentation at the Drawing Center may be the most surreal “Pictures Generation” show you’ll ever see. —*Natalie Haddad, Reviews Editor*

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## Acts of Art in Greenwich Village

[Bertha and Karl Leubsdorf Gallery at Hunter College](#), 132 East 68th Street, Upper East Side, Manhattan  
Through March 29



Installation view of *Acts of Art in Greenwich Village* at the Bertha and Karl Leubsdorf Gallery at Hunter College (photo by Argenis Apolinario)

“[Acts of Art] operated for only six years but exemplified the spirit of a subversive and consequential period in Black art history.” —*Jasmine Weber*

Read the full review [here](#).

## Nick Cave: Amalgams and Graphs

[Jack Shainman Gallery](#), 46 Lafayette Street, Civic Center, Manhattan

Through March 29



Nick Cave, “Amalgam (Plot)” (2024), bronze, tole flowers, and cast iron door stops, on view at Jack Shainman Gallery (photo Hrag Vartanian/*Hyperallergic*)

“Cave visualizes himself not as safe and separate from the powerful, as his earlier work appeared to, but as perpetually open to interpretation from his audience.” —*Hrag Vartanian*

Read the full review [here](#).

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## The Writing's on the Wall: Language and Silence in the Visual Arts

[Hill Art Foundation](#), 239 Tenth Avenue, 3rd Floor, Chelsea, Manhattan

Through March 29



Andy Warhol, "Close Cover Before Striking" (1962), acrylic and collage on linen (photo Lisa Yin Zhang/*Hyperallergic*)

“The exhibition is relatively straightforward — though no less rich and evocative for it — asking and suggesting answers to the question: What is the relationship of language and silence to visual art?” —*Lisa Yin Zhang*

Read the full review [here](#).

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## **American Artist: Shaper of God**

**Pioneer Works**, 159 Pioneer Street, Red Hook, Brooklyn

Through April 13



Installation view of *American Artist: Shaper of God* at Pioneer Works, Brooklyn. Left: “Estella Butler’s Apple Valley Autonomy” (2024); right: “To Acorn (1984)” (2023) (courtesy Pioneer Works)

“What would it mean for the survival of the planet if we were to take seriously Black feminist visions of climate justice in which coexistence with nature is prioritized over environmental plunder?” —*Alexandra M. Thomas*

Read the full review [here](#).

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## **Ericka Beckman: Power of the Spin**

**Drawing Center**, 35 Wooster Street, Soho, Manhattan

Through May 11



Ericka Beckman, "Tension Building Concept Drawing" (2015), charcoal, graphite, felt-tip pen, and pastel on paper (photo Natalie Haddad/*Hyperallergic*)

“Visually, [Beckman’s] schematic images are closer to Russian Constructivism and even some of Giorgio de Chirico’s metaphysical paintings than to anything from 1980s New York.” —*NH*

Read the full review [here](#).