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Spring Awakening: London's Best Exhibitions on View Now at Pilar Corrias, White Cube, and More

London's spring exhibitions offer a rich tapestry of artistic expression, each show presenting a unique perspective on contemporary issues and timeless themes.

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Spring has always been synonymous with renewal, growth, and vibrant displays of life. London's art scene mirrors this natural cycle, offering a plethora of exhibitions that challenge, inspire, and provoke. This season, five standout shows capture the essence of contemporary creativity and the ever-evolving discourse of art. From the futuristic visions at Pilar Corrias to the introspective reflections at Saatchi Yates, here's an in-depth look at London's Best Exhibitions this spring.

Lina Iris Viktor's "Solar Angels & Lunar Lords" at Pilar Corrias





Pilar Corrias Gallery presents Lina Iris Viktor's solo exhibition "Solar Angels and Luna Lords."

June 5–July 13, 2024

Pilar Corrias Gallery presents Lina Iris Viktor's solo exhibition "Solar Angels and Luna Lords," a golden glistening show featuring Viktor's latest pieces including paintings, sculptures, and works on paper. Meshing together West African artistic cultures of the Ivory Coast, Ghana, and Benin with contemporary Modernist African influences, Viktor's latest collection seamlessly incorporates her heritage with her refined artistic sensibility. This exhibition is a testament to the gallery's commitment to cutting-edge, forward-thinking art.

Viktor's consistent usage of gold in her pieces contrasts with her less immortal black and white textiles, generating a broader image of light versus darkness. With this juxtaposition, each piece achieves a timeless quality that greets viewers with an ethereal sense of sacredness intertwined with a distinctly modern perspective. Viktor's pieces are not only visually alluring but also conceptually rich, as they prompt introspection about viewers' own places in the world.

Tesfaye Urgessa at Saatchi Yates



Tesfaye Urgessa, "Zahlen und Daten 1," 2024, oil on canvas, 199 × 179.5 cm, courtesy of the artist and Saatchi Yates

May 1-June 16

At Saatchi Yates, Tesfaye Urgessa's solo exhibition provides a powerful, introspective journey into identity, heritage, and the human condition. Urgessa, an Ethiopian-born artist, creates works that are deeply personal yet universally resonant.

<u>Urgessa's</u> paintings are characterized by their vivid colors and abstracted human forms, which often convey a sense of movement and emotion. His work is a dialogue between his Ethiopian roots and his experiences in the West, blending traditional African art motifs with contemporary European styles. This hybridity is evident in pieces like "The Last Supper," where the familiar biblical scene is reimagined through the lens of Ethiopian iconography and modernist abstraction.

The exhibition is a profound exploration of cultural duality and the artist's quest for identity in a globalized world. Urgessa's use of bold, expressive brushstrokes and layered textures invites viewers to delve into the complex narratives embedded within each canvas. His art does not offer easy answers but rather encourages contemplation and self-reflection.

"The Secret Life of Plants" at The Gallery of Everything



May 12—July 7, 2024

"The Secret Life of Plants" at The Gallery of Everything is a whimsical, thoughtprovoking group exhibition that celebrates the unseen and often overlooked aspects of the plant kingdom. This show is a delightful blend of science, art, and mysticism, featuring works that range from botanical illustrations to fantastical sculptures.

One of the highlights is a series of intricate drawings that reveal the microscopic beauty of plant cells. These works, created by a contemporary artist with a background in botanical science, are both educational and aesthetically pleasing. They remind us of the complex inner lives of plants and their crucial role in the ecosystem.

Another fascinating piece is a kinetic sculpture that mimics the movement of plants responding to sunlight. This installation uses light sensors and motors to create a lifelike dance of metal leaves and stems, offering a mechanical interpretation of natural processes. It's a poetic reflection on the interplay between nature and technology, highlighting the ingenuity of plants and their ability to adapt and thrive.

Georg Baselitz's "A Confession of my Sins" at White Cube

Eugene Von Bruenchenhein, "Untitled," c. 1947, clay, paint, 8.9 × 8.9 × 3.8 cm, courtesy of Gallery of Everything.



April 10–June 16, 2024

White Cube's presentation of Georg Baselitz's "A Confession of my Sins" is a masterclass in the power of contemporary painting. <u>Baselitz</u>, a towering figure in the art world, is known for his bold, expressive style and his ability to convey raw emotion through his work.

This exhibition focuses on his recent paintings, which continue to push the boundaries of form and content. Baselitz's signature technique of inverting his subjects challenges viewers to see the world from a different perspective, both literally and metaphorically. His works are rich with symbolism and often draw from historical and cultural references, creating a dialogue between past and present.

One of the standout pieces is a large-scale painting that features a fragmented human figure rendered in vibrant, almost aggressive brushstrokes. The inversion of the figure adds a layer of complexity, forcing the viewer to engage with the painting on a deeper level. Baselitz's use of color and texture is masterful, conveying a sense of movement and emotional intensity that is both captivating and unsettling.

Eric Oglander's "Do Nothing Machine" at Bernheim Gallery



Installation view of Bernheim Gallery's "Do Nothing Machine" by artist Eric Oglander.

April 5–July 5, 2024 Finally, the <u>Bernheim Gallery</u>'s "Do Nothing Machine" by artist **Eric Oglander** offers a refreshing departure from the hustle and bustle of modern life. This exhibition is an exploration of idleness and the concept of doing nothing as an art form. It's a thought-provoking commentary on our productivity-obsessed culture and a celebration of the beauty of stillness.

The centerpiece of the exhibition is a large, mechanical contraption that serves no practical purpose other than to exist. This "Do Nothing Machine" is a whimsical, Rube Goldberg-like device that performs a series of pointless actions, delighting viewers with its absurdity. It's a playful yet profound reminder of the value of slowing down and appreciating the moment.

Accompanying this machine are a series of minimalist sculptures and meditative paintings that encourage contemplation and relaxation. Oglander's works create a serene environment that contrasts sharply with the frenetic pace of the outside world, offering a sanctuary for reflection and introspection.

FURTHER READING

- \rightarrow Gerhard Richter's Metamorphosis and Medium Shifts at David Zwirner in London Gerhard Richter's body of work showcased at David Zwirner London delves into the transcendent nature of art.
- \rightarrow The New NISO Gallery in London Connects Overlooked 20th-Century Artists with Today's Emerging Makers Gallerist Nicolas Sorbac opens NISO Gallery, fueled by a renewed interest in 20th-century figures that have fallen off our radar.
- \rightarrow Barbara Kruger Immerses London in Her New Show at Serpentine Iconic American artist Barbara Kruger returns to London for the first time in 23 years with a show at Serpentine South.

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"When Forms Come Alive" at Hayward Gallery in London

Inviting the audience to feel, touch, and experience art in its most dynamic state is "When Forms Come Alive" at Hayward Gallery.



Susan Chen, When Plan B is Artist Anthony James Plan A

Susan Chen's first solo show at Rachel Uffner is on view now through April 20 in New York, including works in clay and ne paintings.



Illuminates Seven Continents with Divine Light

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