

ART

Eight lively museum exhibitions to see

By Charles Desmarais

For some people, the new year starts on Jan. 1; for others, spring is the most potent signal of renewal. In the place outside of geography that many call the art world, however, it is the fall season that demarcates the passage of time.

The Bay Area will see a lively mix of visual art this autumn, from the conceptual to the spiritual, the historical to the art that is making new history. The commercial gallery scene is just too large to survey here — it's worth the energy it requires, but pace yourself. Meanwhile, here are the museum-level shows in public institutions that anchor fall 2019.

“Vincent Fecteau” The famous Bay Area artist no one seems to know, Vincent Fecteau is a MacArthur Fellow, having been awarded the so-called genius grant in 2016. He has been invited to participate in major international exhibitions and is represented by a top New York gallery. Yet it has been more than 15 years since Fecteau has shown in San Francisco, his home since 1991. The California College of the Arts' Wattis Institute addresses the gap with an exhibition of new works, all painstakingly crafted from simple materials at hand.

Noon-6 p.m., Tuesdays-Saturdays. Sept. 5-Nov. 9. Free. CCA Wattis Institute, 360 Kansas St., S.F. 415-355-9670. <https://wattis.org>

“The Melancholy Museum: Love, Death and Mourning at Stanford” Artist Mark Dion and his curatorial collaborators at Stanford's Cantor Arts Center have spent the past year, on and off, delving into the museum's original Stanford family collection, searching for the objects and insights Dion will use to flesh out a new institutional history. The exhibition marks the Cantor's 125th anniversary, and Dion is known for telling reinterpretations of unmined cultural troves.

11 a.m.-5 p.m., Wednesday-Monday; until 8 p.m. Thursdays. Sept. 18-ongoing. Free. Cantor Arts Center, Stanford University, 328 Lomita Drive, Stanford. 650-723-4177. <https://museum.stanford.edu>



© Kenyatta A.C. Hinkle

Kenyatta A.C. Hinkle, “The Uprising” (2016). Hinkle's work will be presented at SFMOMA.

“Terry Fox: Resonance” Billed as “a roving exhibition,” this exhibition looks at the work of the highly influential, if stubbornly enigmatic, Bay Area conceptualist Terry Fox. Venues include 871 Fine Arts, the CCA Wattis Institute for Contemporary Arts, Cushion Works, Grace Cathedral, the Lab, UC Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive, and the libraries of the San Francisco Art Institute and the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art. How can one resist a show that promises to include Fox's 1977 interpretation of a famous ritual walk at Chartres Cathedral, titled “The Labyrinth Scored for the Purrs of 11 Different Cats”?

Various venues — consult websites for details. Oct. 1-Dec. 14. Further information: 415-864-8855. www.thelab.org

“James Tissot: Fashion & Faith” Celebrated on both sides of the English Channel as a society painter in the 1870s and '80s, James Tissot experienced what he considered a religious vision around 1885. In a collaboration with the Musée d'Orsay in Paris, the Legion of Honor will reconsider the full range of Tissot's work in an exhibition of some 60 paintings, plus works on paper and cloisonné enamels.

9:30 a.m.-5:15 p.m. Tuesday-Sunday. Oct. 12-Feb. 9. \$13-\$28. Legion of Honor, 100 34th Ave., S.F. 415-750-3600. <https://legionofhonor.famsf.org>

“No Spectators: The Art of Burning Man” If you've never been to Burning Man, this exhibition reportedly provides a good overview of the visual art offerings at the distant,

dusty, disturbingly dear desert debauch. The show was a resounding success at the Smithsonian American Art Museum in Washington, D.C., where it originated. The presentation in Oakland is enhanced by a 40-foot-high outdoor temple by Bay Area sculptor David Best, well known on the Playa for the scale and ambition of his elaborate works.

11 a.m.-5 p.m., Wednesday-Thursday; 11 a.m.-10 p.m., Friday; 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturday-Sunday. Oct. 12-Feb. 16. \$7-\$16. Oakland Museum of California, 1000 Oak St., Oakland. 510-318-8400. <http://museum.ca.org>

“Soft Power” Eungie Joo, appointed in 2017 as the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art's curator of contemporary art, is the one curator at the museum whose portfolio rests solely amid the art

of the 21st century. Her first major survey exhibition for SFMOMA, therefore, is a matter of intense interest for those wishing to divine the museum's future path. “Soft Power,” an international show featuring new commissions and recent work by 20 artists, is likely to be the most discussed event of the season.

10 a.m.-5 p.m. Fridays-Tuesdays, 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Thursdays. Oct. 26-Feb. 17. \$19-\$25; ages 18 and younger free. San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, 151 Third St., S.F. 415-357-4000. www.sfmoma.org

“Soul of a Nation: Art in the Age of Black Power 1963-1983” A blockbuster-popular exhibition that doubles as a deeply researched treatise on a significant period in American art, “Soul of a Nation” is a must-see. Why is African American art having a moment? This lively show, which attracted huge crowds in London, New York and Los Angeles, goes a long way to answering that question.

9:30 a.m.-5:15 p.m. Tuesday-Sunday. Nov. 9-March 15. \$10-\$25; free the second Saturday each month of the exhibition. De Young Museum, Golden Gate Park, 50 Hagiwara Tea Garden Drive, S.F. 415-750-3600. www.deyoung.famsf.org

“2019 SECA Art Award: Kenyatta A.C. Hinkle, Sahar Khoury, Marlon Mullen” Selected in an exhaustive process that culminated with 16 finalists, the three artists selected for this year's SECA Art Award can be relied upon to deliver a heady variety of art. The (more or less) biannual award has launched many a Bay Area career for more than 50 years. For this edition, each artist will be presented in her or his own gallery, giving them the individual attention they had all earned even before being tapped by SFMOMA.

10 a.m.-5 p.m. Fridays-Tuesdays, 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Thursdays. Nov. 16-April 12. \$19-\$25; ages 18 and younger free. San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, 151 Third St., S.F. 415-357-4000. www.sfmoma.org

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